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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 53 | THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI set up its own islandwide tsunami warning system?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Postal Service

The post office is renewing its drive to drop Saturday delivery and plans a rate hike.

BUSINESS...Page 14

Body Found

A body found in a shallow grave is believed to be that of 17-year-old Chelsea King.

NATION...Page 15

Ageless Icon

The heroine of Tim Burton's new movie, "Alice in Wonderland," is an ageless icon.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

House panel races against time to pass FY 2010 austerity bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee is racing against time to have its "austerity Fridays" and "unpaid holidays" bill finalized, passed and signed into law before another legal holiday sets in—Covenant Day on March 24.

This comes in the wake of revisions made by the Fitial administration on its revenue projection for Fiscal Year 2010—from $150 million to $137 million.

Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) met with members of his committee yesterday to work on his austerity bill, which has undergone revisions to accommodate concerns of members and agencies.

See HOUSE on Page 4

'A grievous breach of trust'

To fail to honor a key premise upon which so many individuals and organizations based their support for the monument would be a grievous breach of trust and a profoundly inequitable outcome for the people of the Commonwealth.

—Chamber president Douglas A. Brennan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Chamber: US fails to honor promises on marine monument

The United States has failed not only to prepare management plans and an advisory board for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument but also to fulfill its promise of "benefits" that include the establishment of a visitor's center in the CNMI, according to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

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'Salary hike for deserving police officers, firefighters'

» Police, public show support for Tudela during confirmation hearing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate chamber and gallery were filled to capacity as police cadets and officers, other law enforcers, government officials and private citizens showed their support for the re-

See SALARY on Page 4

Dozens of police cadets crowd the Senate gallery on Capital Hill yesterday morning to show support for Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, during a public hearing on his re-nomination.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jobless man brain dead after assault

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A jobless man has been declared brain dead after being assaulted while he was talking with his girlfriend in front of Kagman High School Monday afternoon.

Saipan Tribune learned during a visit

See JOBLESS on Page 4

100 families get housing benefits. PAGE 2

$80K salary eyed for NMC's interim president. PAGE 3

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Local

100 families get housing benefits

NMPASI may not accept applications anymore

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

About 100 families have been approved to receive benefits from a housing aid program that has a total funding of $335,224, according to the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. yesterday.

With the 100 families already in place, the agency will probably stop accepting new applications for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, said NMPASI executive director Jim Rayphand.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Rayphand said 2,000 people signed up for the program but only about 500 to 700 actually came in to follow up and apply.

He said they began issuing benefits that include rental assistance and, in some cases, security deposits for utilities in the tail-end of November 2009.

"We reached out to Tinian and Rota as well. I could not tell you the breakdown of how many but there may be a couple of clients on Tinian that are also receiving [benefits]," he said.

Rayphand said they may not accept new applications anymore because there's not enough money left from the $335,224 reserved for direct financial assistance.

"And just with the 100 families alone that have been placed, we already committed somewhere around the neighborhood of $125,000 of the $335,000," he said.

"So basically we already committed a third of the funding that is available to just the 100 that's already been placed," he added.

Rayphand noted that of the 100 beneficiaries, approximately 28 percent include or have a person with disability in the household.

"The ethnic breakdown is pretty vast too. It's pretty much spread across," he said.

Rayphand said they are planning to hold a meeting this Friday with the families that are receiving assistance as NMPASI is exploring the possibility of extending these families' benefits.

"It's going to depend on some factors. What we told them initially [is that] there has to have some good faith effort on their part to try to improve their lives, whether in jobs or whatever the case," he said.

Raphand said they will be recertifying families, possibly depending on the nature of what they've done to try to better their lives.

"The initial point of the program was to try to help families that are homeless or about to be homeless to stabilize their lives," he said. "What we don't want is people just collecting this money without putting in personal effort to try to improve their status."

He said it is possible that they may stop extending benefits to people that are just taking advantage or taking the program for granted.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and is administered by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is collaborating with NMPASI, Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Coalition for Anti-Stigmas of Mental Illness to help promote and implement the program.

NMPASI temporarily stopped accepting new applications for the program on Nov. 9, 2009, after more than a thousand individuals trooped to NMPASI's office in Gualo Rai to apply.

Public Notice

To: All Aliens in the CNMI

All aliens in the CNMI are hereby notified that Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office will conduct a question and answer session regarding the P. L. 110-229 and employment under the federal laws in the CNMI. If you have questions regarding the newly implemented above federal laws, please come and get your question answered by the Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown on Thursday, March 04, 2010 at 6:00 pm, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Paunawa

Sa lahat ng dayuhan sa CNMI

Ang lahat ng dayuhan sa CNMI ay inaabisuhan na ang Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office ay magsasagawa ng sesyon kung saan sasagutin ang inyong mga katanungan tungkol sa PL 110-229 at pagtatrabaho sa ilalim ng batas Federal sa CNMI. Kung mayroon kang mga katanungan tungkol sa bagong ipinatutupad na batas Federal, mangyari lamang na pumunta upang ang iyong katanungan ay masagot ni Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown sa Huwebes, March 04, 2010, 6:00 ng hapon, sa American Memorial Park Amphitheater, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

公告

致：北马里亚纳群岛联邦(CNMI)境内的全体外籍人士

特此通知CNMI 境内的全体外籍人士,联邦劳工监察官办公室将会就关于公法 110-229 和联邦法律下的 CNMI 劳工雇佣制度开展一次答问会活动。如果您对上述新实施的联邦法律有任何疑问，请在 2010 年 3 月 4 日星期四傍晚 6 点到塞班岛加拉班美国公园的圆形露天剧场来，联邦劳工监察官潘布朗女士(Pam Brown)将会现场解答您的问题。

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). You must come!

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REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 3 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at www.ovrgov.net and at Navy Hill Bldg N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA Grant #H126A050078 of the United States Department of Education.

Office of the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)

$80K salary eyed for NMC's interim president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents' personnel affairs committee will recommend an $80,000 annual salary for interim Northern Marianas College president Lorraine Cabrera—a 70 percent increase over her current salary—due to the enormous tasks and responsibilities she's handling since assuming the position more than a month ago.

If the board approves the recommendation, Cabrera will be getting the same salary given to a permanent president.

Personnel committee chair Andrew Orsini told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the board had already discussed the proposal "informally." A formal recommendation for board action may take place at its next meeting.

Orsini said that, with the board's approval, Cabrera will also get the $800 monthly housing allowance provided a permanent president.

Cabrera

"We have not given anything yet to the interim president as we speak… but be mindful that, because of the immense responsibilities and assigned tasks to her, she needs to be justly compensated and we're now looking into that. The committee will make the recommendation very soon for the full board's action," Orsini told *Saipan Tribune*.

Prior to her designation, Cabrera was the college's director for Adult Basic Education program, receiving an annual salary of $47,000.

"We have discussed that informally…and as soon as the board approves it she'll be getting the salary deserved by a president," Orsini said.

Although Dr. Carmen Fernandez had been suspended since Jan. 12, the college is still paying her her salary and benefits, as provided by college policy. If the board approves the $80,000 salary for Cabrera, the college could end up paying for two presidents at the same time, particularly if the investigation on Fernandez is delayed for months.

Orsini described the $80,000 being proposed for Cabrera as a "salary adjustment" because only a certain amount will be added to her existing salary of $47,000.

"There's no increase as far as position is concerned," he said, adding that the committee is looking at the earliest possible time to make the recommendation to the board.

Check signatory

Since Fernandez's suspension, the board had designated Cabrera to handle all transaction signings for the college, via a memo from board chair Janet Han King.

Orsini said yesterday that the "memo from the chairwoman" has been transmitted to the accrediting commission for notification and was accepted and honored until a permanent president is onboard.

"It was done effective Jan. 12 and officially transmitted to the commission, which was accepted and honored until such time the report of the investigation is completed," Orsini added.

An NMC statement yesterday indicated that when Cabrera was appointed interim president, she assumed all the duties and responsibilities of the president and these included entering into contracts and endorsing financial instruments, including checks, on behalf of the institution to pay for financial obligations.

The same statement said: "The Board of Regents has been extremely satisfied with the interim president's performance in carrying out her responsibilities" and, according to Orsini, the salary that will be provided to Cabrera "is commensurate with the tremendous responsibility that she has had to take on in the past several weeks."

NMC board hires lawyer to handle Fernandez's case

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has hired Cabot Mantanona, LLP, a Guam-based law firm, to handle the case of suspended NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

According to personnel committee chair Andrew Orsini, the law firm will take over the casework from the board's counsel, Jesse Borja.

However, Borja will remain as the regents' attorney and will handle all other legal board matters and issues, he said.

"Mr. Borja is still our legal counsel. The lawyer from Guam was primarily hired just to address and assist the college on matters relating to Dr. Fernandez's issues. They have taken over the work on this specific issue," Orsini said.

He described the hiring as emergency in nature due to the urgency of the matter.

Orsini said the agreement between NMC and the law firm is a "short-term contract" and will be based on the amount of work to be rendered for the case. He refused to specify an amount, saying this would only be determined after the completion of the case.

"The contract is only for a short period," he said, adding that this also aims to speed up the investigation process at the college.

Orsini said the law firm is an expert on educational matters, as shown in the services it has rendered to other Pacific universities and colleges like the University of Guam and Guam Community College.

This is the first time NMC hired Cabot Mantanona, LLP.

Decision expected after March 11

The board's decision on the suspension of Dr. Fernandez will be known next week after the Attorney General's Office said that NMC is expected to have all the reports by March 11.

Fernandez

"We anticipate all reports completed and tendered to NMC on March 11," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune* last Saturday.

Once the board receives the reports, these will be reviewed and the board will take appropriate action, according to board chair Janet Han King.

"The board plans to act expeditiously and does not intend to prolong the matter. It is committed to ensuring all parties' rights are protected and due process is provided," King told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fernandez was suspended last Jan. 12 pending the investigations against her involving the alleged changing of students' grades and management operations.

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Saipan Chamber of Commerce

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- College AA degree and/or office management experience desirable.

Competitive salary ($10 - $15 per hour, commensurate with experience), benefits include paid time off and health insurance cost-sharing. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2010. Please see the Job Description Summary available online at www.saipanchamber.com for a more complete list of tasks and knowledge requirements. Application forms are available at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office, Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan, or on the Chamber's website.

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Another defendant in biggest 'ice' haul pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of four defendants in the biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI entered a guilty plea in federal court yesterday.

Biao Huang, a male Chinese, agreed to plead guilty to the indictment that charged him with one count of conspiracy to distribute "ice" and three counts of possession of a controlled substance.

Attorney G. Anthony Long is counsel for Huang. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja accepted the guilty plea and set the sentencing for June 8, 2010 at 9am. Naraja remanded Huang to the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Office.

Drug Enforcement Administration and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Huang and Sheng Lian in August 2009 for allegedly trying to sell 947 grams of "ice" to two undercover FBI agents inside a hotel room in Susupe.

Two others—Chun Mei Li and Ya Bin Huang—were later arrested, also for selling "ice."

The entire operation netted a total of 1,021.4 grams of "ice" worth $510,000.

Lian pleaded guilty. Last month, the court sentenced him to 11 years and three months in prison.

Ya Bin Huang also pleaded guilty. Last month, the court sentenced him to 36 months in prison with credit for the time he had already served in jail.

JOBLESS

From Page 1

to the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday afternoon that Larry Gonzales, a Filipino, is hooked to a life support machine in the intensive care unit.

Gonzales' friends said a doctor had informed them that Gonzales was brain dead due to massive internal head injuries.

Since the victim has no family on Saipan, no one could decide on what action to take in his case.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that Sgt. Paul Ogumoro of the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau had informed him that the report of the incident will be provided today, Thursday.

Tarkong said the suspect has already been identified. He did not elaborate.

The victim's friends disclosed that police had already arrested the suspect, who is allegedly the former boyfriend of Gonzales' teenaged girlfriend.

One of Gonzales' friends, Miriam Buatis, 35, said the incident happened Monday at 5pm in front of Kagman High School.

Buatis said she was told that Gonzales was talking to his girlfriend when the suspect came and punched him in the face. Gonzales fell and hit his head on the pavement. The suspect allegedly repeatedly kicked him, then fled.

Some people inside an Internet shop near the scene apparently witnessed the incident, Buatis said.

When a police officer responded, Gonzales at first refused to be taken to the hospital. Later that night, the victim lost consciousness so he was taken to the hospital.

Buatis said Gonzales had filed a labor case against his former employer, Aqualite Water Company, where he used to work as a deliveryman.

Buatis and United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana are asking the community's help to repatriate Gonzales to the Philippines.

Buatis can be reached at 235-1225 or at 234-2233, while Yana can be contacted at 285-7893 or at 234-6529.

SALARY

From Page 1

appointment of Police Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, who advocated long-deserved salary increase for police officers and firefighters.

Many police officers in the CNMI have not had a salary adjustment for 10 or more years.

"I'm going to be working with the Legislature to see if they could identify funding for salary adjustments of firemen and police officers. I want to see that they get their salary increase because they sacrifice themselves with minimum salary. …We need funding," Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* right after a public hearing on his re-nomination as Department of Public Safety commissioner.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, said if there's going to be salary adjustment among police officers and firefighters, it should include Tinian and Rota, not only Saipan.

Cruz, who is a retired police officer, said there should be utmost consideration for the nature of the job of police officers who risk their lives to maintain peace and stability in the community.

"Paying an officer a bigger salary is nothing compared to risking their lives day and night. Somebody has to think about that, despite the economy. I know that nobody told them to become a police officer but they should be thankful that people are stepping forward to protect everybody," he added.

In October last year, police officers and firefighters held a protest march to the Legislature and the Office of the Governor, demanding pay increases.

Ten law enforcement officers, lawmakers, government officials and private citizens testified in support of Tudela's re-nomination as DPS commissioner.

They included Tinian Casino and Gaming Commission's Peter Cruz, Juan S. Aguon, former House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, acting Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, CNMI Superior Court probation officer Oscar Torres, DPS-Rota Resident Director Felix Santos, DPS Fire Division's Jesse Mesa, Ports Police Chief Jordan Lee Kosam, Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan).

Sablan, who also has a law enforcement background as a former Immigration director, said Tudela's leadership has kept police officers' morale high.

"There's nothing more detrimental for a law enforcement agency than a drop in morale. …I hope that the nominee will continue to run DPS in such a manner where we reward people according to performance tenure and push political influence to the side and take care of the rank-and-file on merit basis," Sablan told senators.

Sablan also noted that Tudela need not work now as DPS commissioner since he retired in 2005 after more than 30 years in service.

In August 2008, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked Tudela to go back to DPS, an offer which Tudela accepted.

"That's the quality of service we'd like to see from members of the public. I urge this committee to confirm the nominee for DPS commissioner," Sablan added.

Palacios also expressed support to Tudela, but asked him to also look into the safety of children in villages where fire trucks refill their tanks with water, and urged him to put more police patrol in villages.

Palacios echoed Sablan's statement that Tudela should continue to build the morale of rank-and-file police officers and firefighters.

In a prepared statement, Tudela said he is "honored" to be re-nominated by the governor and speak before the Senate EAGI Committee.

During Tudela's tenure as DPS commissioner, the department went through hard times with services and personnel but he said he worked with the department to enhance its services.

"I have worked hard to have our dedicated sworn personnel come to duty every day and still realize that these officers sacrifice their lives at a very minimal salary because they are not given their yearly increments or within-grade increases," he said.

When he came back as DPS commissioner, Tudela reduced overtime work hours at DPS to save the department from a budget deficit.

"Officers were not happy with this decision but they had to face reality that yes, overtime was out, but they continue to receive their regular hours of pay," he said in his statement.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), a member of the EAGI Committee, asked Tudela whether something could still be done to help residents avoid $300 or more for driver's education given the tough economic times.

Other committee members also asked Tudela questions on DPS operations.

BREACH

From Page 1

In a March 2 letter to Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Gu), chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, the Chamber also urged her to support Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 3511 that seeks to establish and operate a visitor facility in the CNMI.

Bordallo's H.R. 4493 seeks to establish the same facility in Guam.

"The United States garnered local support in the Commonwealth for the monument to a large degree by touting 'benefits'—including the establishment of a visitor's center," Chamber president Douglas A. Brennan told Bordallo in a two-page comment.

A June 30, 2008 economic impact study prepared by Tom Iverson & Associates for the Global Ocean Legacy Program estimated that, conservatively, the establishment of the marine monument would generate over $10 million in spending, over $14 million in sales via the multiplier effect, almost $5 million in tax revenues, and account for some 400 jobs in the CNMI.

"To fail to honor a key premise upon which so many individuals and organizations in the Commonwealth based their support for the monument would be a grievous breach of trust and a profoundly inequitable outcome for the people of the Commonwealth. We urge your support for H.R. 3511," Brennan told Bordallo.

Brennan said despite the mandates of Presidential Proclamation 8335, the Chamber is unaware of the start of any preparation of management plans for the marine monument.

"Those plans are due from both the departments of Interior and Commerce in approximately 10 months. We also understand that the secretaries of the Interior and Commerce have failed to establish the Mariana Monument Advisory Council, which was to have been done no later than April 6, 2009," he added.

The advisory council would have included three CNMI representatives and one each from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard—none from Guam, said Brennan.

Brennan also told Bordallo that the marine monument was initially conceived by the Pew Environmental Group's Global Ocean Legacy Program, in conjunction with the Bush Administration, and championed by a number of environmentally concerned individuals and groups in the CNMI.

The Chamber was one of the first organizations in the CNMI to meet with representatives of the Global Ocean Legacy Program, met extensively with both proponents and opponents of the marine monument, and hosted a number of public forums to raise awareness on it.

Besides meeting with Tom Iverson and representatives of the Pew Environmental Group, the Chamber also met with an official representative of the U.S. government: then chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality James Connaughton.

Brennan said Connaughton told them that the establishment of the monument would bring federal resources to the CNMI, mentioning in particular the establishment of a visitor's center and "additional infrastructure" on the islands.

In a Feb. 25 hearing on H.R. 3511 and 4493 in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Department of the Interior told the Bordallo's subcommittee that funding for the construction and operation of a Marine Monument visitor facility—whether in the CNMI or Guam—will not be available anytime soon.

Eileen Sobeck, deputy assistant secretary for the Interior's Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said an average-sized multipurpose facility in the U.S. mainland costs about $7 million, but the cost of building a marine monument visitors center either in Guam or the CNMI would likely be higher because of shipping costs to the islands.

But Sobeck said Interior has no objection to H.R. 3511 and H.R. 4493.

The Friends of the Monument, a key proponent of the monument declaration, wants the visitors center to be built in the CNMI, not Guam.

It has asked CNMI residents to continue expressing their support for building a visitors center and headquarters in the CNMI.

Bordallo's Subcommittee is accepting testimony up to 10 days or up to March 5, after the Feb. 25 hearing.

Friends of the Monument said residents can submit testimony in support of Sablan's H.R. 3511, and the letters should be addressed to Bordallo.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Basa's bill already failed to make it before the President's Day holiday on Feb. 15, which could have helped save government money.

Besides the shutdown of non-essential government offices every other Friday, Basa's original bill also declares as "unpaid legal holidays" five holidays before the end of FY 2010: Covenant Day (March 24), Good Friday (April 2), Memorial Day (May 31), Independence/Liberation Day (July 4), and Labor Day (Sept. 6).

Lawmakers, the governor, lieutenant governor, judges and justices will also be asked for a voluntary pay cut of 10 percent.

Basa said the longer the delay in acting on his austerity bill, the lesser it becomes effective in preventing further deficit.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), one of those who attended yesterday's meeting of the committee, said Basa's bill is expected to be acted on in the next House session.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration is waiting for the House Ways and Means Committee's final bill before revising the budget authority for the last two quarters of FY 2010.

Demapan said the administration will meet again with the House and Senate leadership, as a follow up to the closed-door meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, meanwhile, has mulled revenue-generating measures to cope with the expected $137 million in projected revenue for FY 2011.

"These include increasing poker annual license fees, reducing pachinko license fees, giving educational tax credits, and reducing rebates. I want to make it clear that these are only ideas at this time. We are still working on a bill," committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona said an omnibus bill would be better than piecemeal legislation to help generate government revenue or reduce deficit.

On Monday, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the projected revenue for FY 2010 will be reduced by $10 million to $15 million, or from $150 million to $135 million. In a meeting with lawmakers the following day, he said the revised projected revenue for FY 2010 is now $137.350 million.

In the first quarter of FY 2010 alone, government spending already exceeded revenue by over $13 million, higher than the Fitial administration's projection in late December 2009 of $11.5 million.

This is the first time that the Fitial administration has disclosed the need to revise the budget authority covering the two remaining quarters of FY 2010.

The Executive Branch also has until April 1 to submit a budget proposal to the Legislature for FY 2011, which runs from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 31, 2011.

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Lawmakers urge CUC to resolve water problems

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is being urged by some lawmakers to regularly monitor and inspect its water facilities on island after residents complained of not having enough water supply in certain areas such as Capital Hill.

This was the main agenda of yesterday's meeting between CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae and four House members: Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Reps. Stanley Torres, Edmon Villagomez, and Frank Dela Cruz.

Saipan Tribune learned that Ogumoro asked for the meeting as she wanted an audience with CUC to learn about the status of the island's water system.

In an interview yesterday, Torres said the CUC official assured them that they will immediately check the places of residents who recently encountered problems with their water supply to see what the corporation can do.

The lawmakers acknowledged, however, the need for more funding to implement the necessary repairs for all water facilities on Saipan.

CUC records show that there are 10,000 water customers on island. The agency has 146 wells, 16 storage tanks and reservoirs, and 18 booster stations.

CUC earlier disclosed that it is losing a significant volume of water it is producing. It claims that for every 10 gallons of water being produced, only four to five gallons are being billed while the rest is considered "loss" due to some factors. The "unbilled usage" was among the major factors for significant losses, followed by water leaks.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had put CUC in a state of emergency since 2008 as a result of the poor condition of the island's power, water and wastewater services.

Benavente named to represent NMI on PIDB board

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has appointed House Minority Leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) to serve as the CNMI Legislature's representative on the Pacific Islands Development Bank's Board of Governors.

PIDB is a regional development bank that finances the needs of the people and businesses in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

PIDB president and chief executive officer Aren Palik wrote a Feb. 22 letter to Tenorio and Manglona, asking them to appoint a representative on the PIDB board.

Two days later on Feb. 24, Tenorio and Manglona wrote to Palik on Benavente's appointment.

"We are confident that with Rep. Benavente's vast experience and knowledge, he will be an asset to PIDB and represent the Legislature with distinction and honor," Tenorio and Manglona told Palik.

They added that the CNMI Legislature continues to support the purpose and mission of PIDB, and looks forward to working with Palik in extending the benefits of PIDB's programs to the CNMI.

PIDB, established in July 1989, helps foster sustainable economic and social development in the member countries through its lending program and operation, technical assistance, business advice and counseling, scholarship and internship program, and collaboration with regional governments and organizations.

The PIDB Board of Governors and directors held a meeting on Saipan in April last year, wherein officials said PIDB's loan portfolio is at $5 million, while the delinquency rate is merely 2 percent.

Last of 22 persons who tried to sneak into Guam gets probation

The federal court has imposed a one-year probation sentence on a man who went to trial and was found guilty of trying to sneak into Guam using a boat.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson ordered Shi Guang Li on Friday to immediately pay a $10 court assessment fee.

Munson said Li will be turned over to a federal immigration official for immediate deportation.

If immediate deportation fails and Li is released pending further immigration proceedings, he must report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin the probation terms, Munson said.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Li, moved that his client be imprisoned in Guam for six months so that the defendant could seek asylum. Alternatively, Berline requested a sentence of time already served in jail.

During a bench trial Thursday, Munson found Shiguang Li, a Chinese male national, guilty of one count of attempted improper entry, a misdemeanor.

Li was the last of the 22 defendants in the case.

The U.S. government filed separate charges against 24 Chinese nationals who were arrested by ICE agents last Jan. 5 for trying to unlawfully enter Guam from Saipan using a boat.

Twenty-one of the 22 defendants had already entered a guilty plea and were sentenced to one-year probation.

Those who have not pleaded guilty are Qingmei Cheng, Jian Li, and Shiguang Li.

Jian Li, 32, and Qingmei Cheng, 28, were indicted on 22 counts of attempting to bring aliens to the U.S.

Cheng is the controversial masseuse of Gov. Benigno Fitial. She and Jian Li, 32, were allegedly behind the scheme to smuggle the 22 defendants to Guam. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Half-day session at Kagman High

To all parents and guardian of Kagman High School: One of our parent/guardian involvement plan is to provide the opportunity during progress report days for parents and teachers to meet. They will discuss student learning progress and to explore ways to help students grow academically.

On Tuesday, March 9, 2010, Kagman High will have a half-day session. We will release the students at 12pm. Progress report time is from 4:30pm to 6pm. For any questions, call our office at 237-3840. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets cleanup on Saturday

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Cow Town Beach in Marpi.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 8am at the former Cow Town parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting seal bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of (2) Two CATERPILLAR XQ2000 - 2000 KW Standby / 1825kW Prime generating sets for CUC Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC take down existing generators for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. The existing generator sets on Rota are seriously overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

Due to this critical situation in Rota and the need for fast delivery and installation of two new generator sets the 1825kW Prime XQ2000 CATERPILLAR was selected. If availability of Brand New Modules exceeds ninety (90) days, only Used Modules with low hours will be considered.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-018 Two XQ2000 CATERPILLAR Generating Modules"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Tuesday, April 06, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page —http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All Inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Thursday April 02, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of major overhaul and limited running parts for MITSUI #1 OVERHAUL project at Rota Power Plant CNMI.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down MITSUI #1 for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. MITSUI #1 is seriously overdue for overhaul and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not necessary, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of emission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Monday, March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-021 MITSUI#1 OVERHAUL PARTS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Wednesday, April 07, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Friday, April 2, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Only eight airlines using CNMI airport runways

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of eight airlines are currently being accommodated at Commonwealth airports, only two of which are signatory firms that have regular flights while six bring in charter flights.

According to POI Aviation data, five of these airlines fly to Saipan, two fly to Tinian, and one fly to Rota.

POI Aviation provides a wide range of ground handling services for both private and commercial aircraft flying the islands.

POI Aviation general manager Frank Camacho said the signatory airlines that fly to Saipan are Delta Airlines and Asiana Airlines.

Using Boeing 757, Delta Airlines has a total of 21 flights weekly to Saipan, or three flights daily from Nagoya and Narita, Japan.

Asiana Airlines, meantime, has 11 flights a week from Incheon, South Korea; four flights a week from Pusan, South Korea; and four flights a week from Osaka, Japan.

Depending on the number of passengers, Asiana uses the following aircraft: A-320, A-321, A-330, and B-777, Camacho said.

The Francisco C. Ada International Airport also accommodates charter flights of China Southern, Air China, and Shanghai Airlines.

POI records indicate that China Southern brings in two charter flights from Guangzhou every Tuesday and Saturday, using a B-757 aircraft for all its flights.

Shanghai Airlines also flies in twice weekly, every Tuesday and Saturday, using a B-767.

Air China only brings in tourists on special occasions such as Chinese New Year, Golden Week, and other holidays, Camacho said. The airline uses a B-767 for its flights from Beijing.

Meantime, only two charter flights are accommodated at present at the Tinian airport, Camacho said.

Freedom Air, which uses a Cherokee aircraft, has four daily flights while Star Marianas does business as an air taxi, depending only on the availability of passengers.

On Rota, Continental Airlines fly the route through Cape Air.

FAA checks NMI airports

A team from the Federal Aviation Administration is on island for a weeklong inspection of CNMI airports.

Saipan Tribune learned that the activity is part of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's compliance with the Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 certification inspection, which requires the annual activity.

The visiting team spent two days completing the safety check on Francisco C. Ada International Airport, with the assistance of Saipan airport manager Ed Mendiola. It ended Tuesday.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero accompanied the FAA officials yesterday to the Rota International Airport to do the same safety inspection while Tinian is scheduled for today.

Every year, all airports undergo a safety check to ensure that they are in compliance with all federal safety standards and regulations.

Saipan Tribune learned that results of the inspection for all airports are expected this week, where concerns and deficiencies will be highlighted.

FAA, through the airports improvement projects program, provides CPA millions of dollars for its airport projects such as rehabilitation of runways, procurement of airport equipment, repairs, and maintenance of airport facilities.

New protocols set for any policy changes

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and other government agencies were urged to comply with a new protocol in adopting policies in their respective departments and agencies.

In a directive issued to the ports authority on Feb. 22, the Executive Branch warned that failure to abide by the process would result in an investigation that may result in removal from one's position, reassignment, or termination if probable cause is determined.

The Executive Branch mandated that any policy change should be coordinated with the appropriate public and private entities as well as the Governor's Office.

Prior to finalizing a policy, the draft is required to be provided to the Office of the Governor for review and direction and such policy development must include written standard operating procedures and organizational charts, including functional charts.

It also reminded CPA and other agencies the publication of draft and final policies in the Commonwealth Register in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General.

Subsequent changes and revisions to policies and procedures, in whole or in part, must also undergo the same processes and procedures like other policies.

CPA and other departments must also submit every quarter a certified statement to the Office of the Governor about all policies adopted during the quarter and certification that the policy protocol adoption directive was followed during the quarter.

Noncompliance with the new process will result in penalties. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPW-058

SUBMISSION: MARCH 17, 2010 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"GROUNDWATER, LEACHATE AND GAS TESTING AT THE MARPI SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (MSWF)"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INTERESTED POPOSERS SHOULD SUBMIT ALL QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING TO NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 08, 2010 TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION BY FAX TO (670) 322-2762 OR EMAIL AT dpwsolidwaste@pticom.com.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-070

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 22, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LAPTOP COMPUTERS (RUGGED TABLE TOUGHBOOK MODEL) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY PROGRAM (MCSAP)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDRALLY FUNDED PROJECT: AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-071 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 22, 2010 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) LASER SPEED DETECTORS WITH VIDEO CAMERA CAPABILITY (2-CIF-SAIPAN, 1-CIF-ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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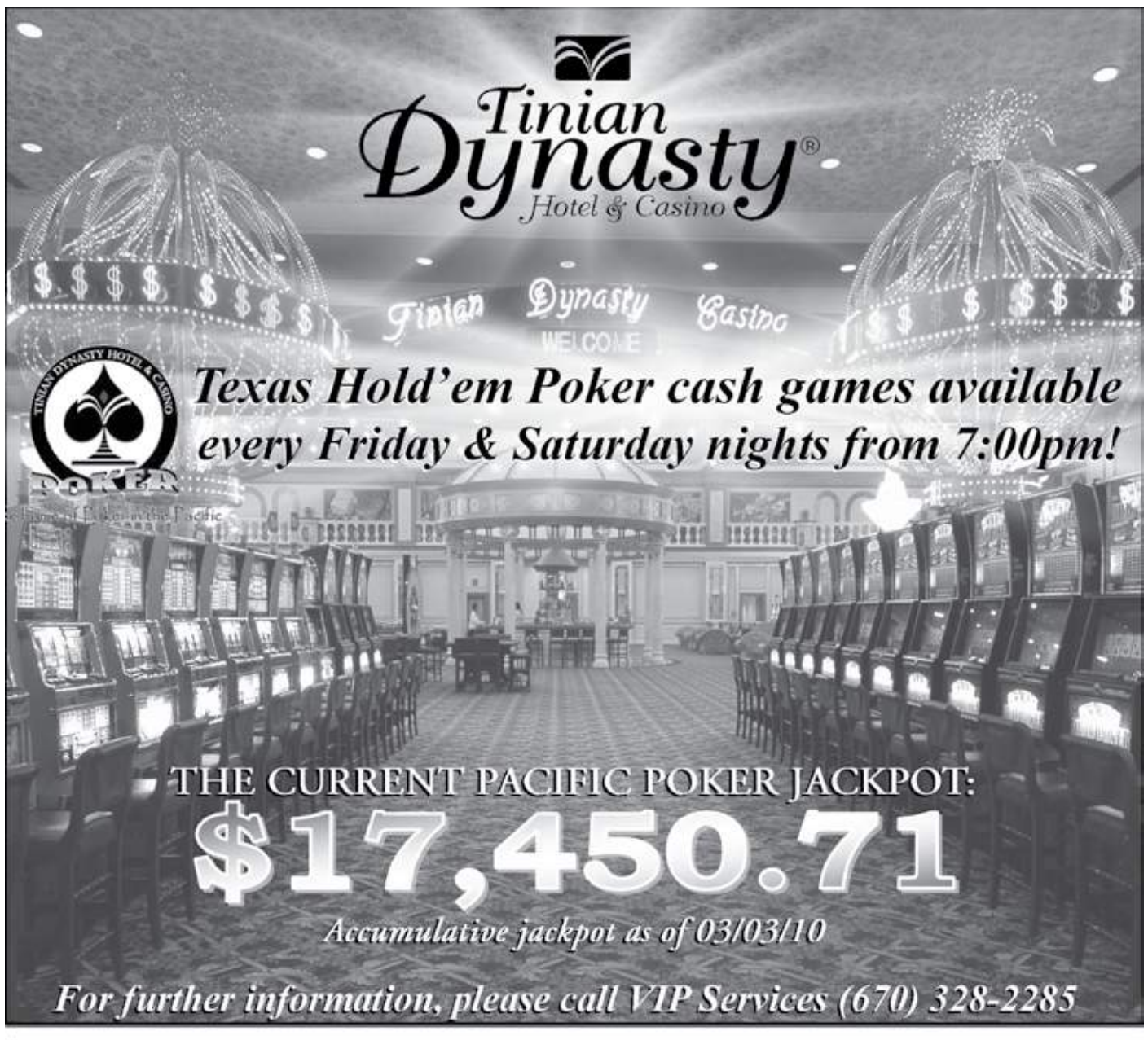
/S/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S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Red Cross school clubs learn lifesaving skills

Over the weekend two of the four American Red Cross school clubs on Saipan strengthened their role in making schools and communities safer and healthier.

The Mt. Carmel Club and Marianas High School Club participated in a four-hour CPR course held at their respective schools. The participants learned lifesaving skills such as what to do when a person is unconscious, how to help a person who is choking, and what steps to take when a person is having a heart attack.

A total of 40 students participated in the weekend event.

When asked about the training, MHS club adviser Anita Sablan, said, "It went very well… The kids were so into it."

MCS club president Naomi Nosek said, "It was really fun. Everyone enjoyed it!"

Red Cross clubs provide the youth the opportunity to grow as young leaders in the community. CPR and First Aid training are some of the many benefits that club members gain out of being a part of the club. Aside from that, members are able to share the same passion that millions of other people around the world share: the innate desire to help those in need, whether it be something small such as helping a lower grade student in their math work or an organized island cleanup.

Throughout the month of March, the Red Cross will be conducting health and safety training, disaster prevention outreach and the long anticipated 24th Annual Walkathon. If you have questions or for more information contact the chapter at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

Red Cross instructor Lucio Aldan teaches one of the MHS club members how to help people when choking.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beach Volleyball Style Mag covers Marianas Cup

Sporting events continue to pay off for Northern Marianas' tourism promotions, as Beach Volleyball Style Magazine of Japan announces plans to feature five full-color pages of last weekend's Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball in the publication's May 2010 issue.

The Marianas Visitors Authority helped coordinate and provided ground transportation for the magazine's chief editor Ai Yoshida and photographer Kazuaki Matsunaga, who arrived on Saipan last Thursday, Feb. 25, to cover the competition and departed March 1. The staff stayed at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The magazine conducted interviews and photo shoots with Japanese participants in the Marianas Cup, now in its 18th year. The magazine's coverage will also include the competition site at Pacific Islands Club Saipan and the weekly Garapan Street Market.

Beach Volleyball Style Magazine targets professional and amateur volleyball players in their 20s to 40s. The magazine is published quarterly and has a circulation of 2,000, featuring techniques, player profiles, and action photos. The estimated value of the coverage is $12,500. ***(MVA)***

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 07-0177-CV
vs.	SECOND NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE
JOHN T. SABLAN, GLORIA DLG SABLAN, AND ANTONIO W. NEFAIKES, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 26, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 16, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-022

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down existing generator sets for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. All existing engines already overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Wednesday, March 31, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-022 "ROTA 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, April 08, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, April 05, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young. Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 4, 1999

Sablan pledges to cooperate in NMC overhaul

The chair of the Board of Regents has vowed to work closely with the legislature and government agencies to address the financial trouble facing the Northern Marianas College as he embarks on a reorganization plan that will eliminate ungraded positions to trim personnel costs. Chief Regent Manuel Sablan said the board will have to undertake a comprehensive review of the college's finances after the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare has disclosed its findings of serious cash flow problems. "I am very concerned because it appears that as a board, we have a fiduciary responsibility to look at these things and I cannot close my eyes to some of the findings the committee has uncovered," he told in an interview.

Senate leader appears lukewarm to Kara suit

A Senate decision to bring the controversial appointment of acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara to court appeared to have been snuck right under the nose of Senate President Paul A. Manglona who has hinted of indifference to the move. In an interview, Manglona said he was made aware of the decision through the media, but refused to categorically say whether he supported the resolution passed by senators last week. "I know that," he explained. "It has since passed the Senate so I believe that our legal counsel has to work on the framework of the resolution."

March 4, 2002

CPA warns against violation of new security measures

The Commonwealth Ports Authority warned that violation of the new security screening measures that will be implemented at the Saipan International Airport constitutes a federal offense, which is normally meted out with stiff penalties. This, as the CPA appealed to the traveling public to bear with the new standard procedures in screening departing and arriving passengers, which is mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Govt steps up fight against snakes

To prevent the propagation of brown tree snakes in the CNMI, wildlife experts are conducting detection training to catch these creatures even at night, using real ones that have been implanted with radio-tracking devices. The device, according to Dr. Tina de Cruz, was implanted so that the snakes used in the training would easily be detected and located should it be temporarily lost. "We have several snakes here that we keep in our office that are used mainly as a training device for the detector dogs," said de Cruz, wildlife supervisor at the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

March 4, 2003

DFW cites lawyer for disturbing bird

Lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho has been issued a notice of violation by the Division of Fish and Wildlife for allegedly disturbing the habitat of an endangered bird species. Quichocho, legal counsel for the Marianas Public Lands Authority, allegedly had a piece of land on Navy Hill cleared-an illegal act since the site was a habitat of the Nightingale Reed-warbler, which is listed as an endangered species in the CNMI DFW regulations and is federally listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. DFW Enforcement Supervisor John Manglona told Quichocho that he has the right to a hearing on this notice of violation and gave him 14 days to respond. "Failure to submit a timely request for a hearing or to be absent at the hearing will waive any defense you have relating to this notice of violation."

CNMI women shine in March

This March, it's the CNMI women's turn to shine through a month-long celebration that would pay homage to the sector's contributions, sacrifices, commitments and achievements. Acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday joined sector representatives led by the Office of Women's Affairs in endorsing the slate of March activities that are intended to highlight women's roles and issues. Benavente, during the proclamation signing ceremony held at the Governor's executive conference room, remarked on the importance of honoring the roles of mothers, wives, teachers and other vital roles that women play in society. "CNMI women are elected leaders, government department heads and professional business managers. Women have contributed to education, politics, health, economic development and the social progress of these islands. Women can be found at the highest levels of nearly every professional field in this community," the acting governor acknowledged.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 53

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

In Chile, 'an emergency without parallel'

First reactions to Chile's massive earthquake, both in and outside the country, included a sense of relief that a shock that registered 500 times larger than that of Haiti's in January caused nowhere near the same amount of damage or loss of life. The death toll, which passed 700 over the weekend, was expected to rise further but not to approach the more than 200,000 killed in Haiti; though badly shaken, the capital of Santiago and the most affected city, Concepcion, are still mostly standing.

The second wave of reaction, however, has been more sober. Chile's leaders—who include an outgoing president and a president-elect due to be sworn in next week—are now talking about far worse damage than they initially anticipated, with potentially far-reaching consequences for Latin America's most successful economy. "This calamity is much deeper, much more damaging and much more serious than we thought," said incoming president Sebastián Piñera.

Outgoing President Michelle Bachelet at first suggested Chile might not need international aid; she was slow to declare a state of emergency in the most affected areas, which may have allowed looting to break out. Now she is talking about "an emergency without parallel in Chile's history" and asking for field hospitals, temporary bridges, water purification equipment and rescue teams. The United States, other nations and private rescue organizations are responding; their challenge will be to give Chile the aid that it requires without slackening the effort in Haiti, which still faces overwhelming needs.

Fortunately, Chile is better prepared than most other nations to handle a crisis of this kind. It scrupulously saved some of the bounty from its copper exports when prices were high in recent years, and as a result it has a rainy-day fund of nearly $15 billion to draw on. (One initial estimate put the damage at $15 billion to $30 billion; the latter figure is about 15 percent of the country's gross national product.) Chile's government debt is low, and its free-market economy is flexible and able to respond quickly.

Piñera, a billionaire businessman who is the first right-wing politician to be elected president since the end of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, already has a plan, which he calls "Let's Raise Chile Up." Importantly, he plans to involve the country's robust private sector in the reconstruction. With luck, the disaster could have a silver lining in the revamping of vital infrastructure and housing. It will, in any case, offer a severe opening test for Piñera, whom some see as the leader of a new generation of Latin American leaders committed to economic and political freedom. Not only Chile will have a lot riding on his success.

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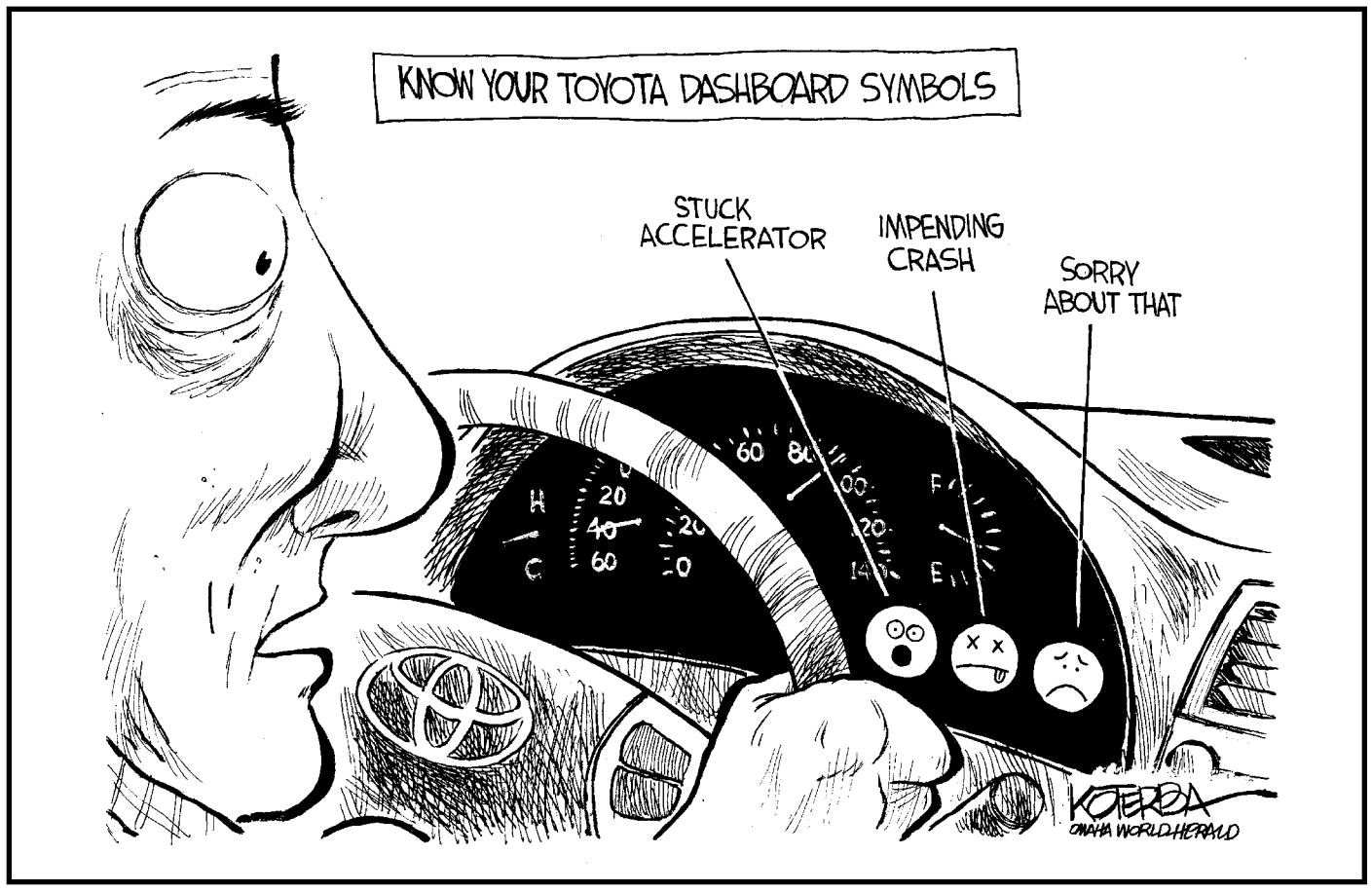


Hyping China: The reality behind the Great Wall

By STEVEN MUFSON and JOHN POMFRET
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—With the American economy struggling and the political system in gridlock, there is one thing everyone in Washington seems to agree on: The Chinese do it better.

Cyberspace? China has an army of hackers ready to read your most intimate e-mails and spy on corporations and super-secret government agencies. (Just ask Google.) Education? China is churning out engineers almost as fast as it's making toys. Military prowess? China is catching up, so quickly that it is about to deploy an anti-ship ballistic missile that could make life on a U.S. aircraft carrier a perilous affair. The economy? China has gone from cheap-clothing-maker to America's banker. Governance? At least *they* can build a high-speed train. And energy? Look out, Red China is going green!

This new Red Scare says a lot about America's collective psyche at this moment. A nation with a per capita income of $6,546—ensconced above Ukraine and below Namibia, according to the International Monetary Fund—is putting the fear of God, or Mao, into our hearts.

Here's our commander in chief, President Obama, talking about clean energy this month: "Countries like China are moving even faster. ... I'm not going to settle for a situation where the United States comes in second place or third place or fourth place in what will be the most important economic engine in the future."

And the nation's pundit in chief, Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times*, even sees some virtue in the Chinese Communist Party's monopoly on political power: "One-party autocracy certainly has its drawbacks. But when it is led by a reasonably enlightened group of people, as China is today, it can also have great advantages."

In the past, when Washington worried about China, it was mainly in terms of a military threat: Would we go to war? Would China replace the Soviet Union as our rival in a post-Cold War world? Or we fretted about it as a global workshop: China would suck manufacturing jobs out of our economy with a cheap currency and cheaper labor. But today, the threat China poses—real or imagined—has flooded into every arena in which our two nations can possibly compete.

And it's not just in Washington. Asked in a *Washington Post*-ABC News poll this month whether this century would be more of an "American century" or more of a "Chinese century," many Americans across the country chose China. Respondents divided evenly between the United States and China on who would dominate the global economy and tilted toward Beijing on who would most influence world affairs overall.

"We have completely lost perspective on what constitutes reality in China today," said Elizabeth Economy, the director for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. "There is a lot that is incredible about China's economic story, but there is as much that is not working well on both the political and economic fronts. We need to understand the nuances of this story—on China's innovation, renewables, economic growth, etc.—to ensure that all the hype from Beijing, and from our own media and politicians, doesn't lead us to skew our own policy."

Having lived in China during the past two decades, we have witnessed and chronicled its remarkable economic and social transformation. But the notion that China poses an imminent threat to all aspects of American life reveals more about us than it does about China and its capabilities. The enthusiasm with which our politicians and pundits manufacture Chinese straw men points more to unease at home than to success inside the Great Wall.

This is not to say that China isn't doing many things right or that we couldn't learn a thing or two from our Chinese friends. But in large part, politicians, activists and commentators push the new Red Scare to advance particular agendas in Washington. If you want to promote clean energy and get the government to invest in this sector, what better way to frame the issue than as a contest against the Chinese and call it the "new Sputnik"? Want to resuscitate the F-22 fighter jet? No better country than China to invoke as the menace of the future.

Take green technology. China does make huge numbers of solar devices, but the most common are low-tech rooftop water-heaters or cheap, low-efficiency photovoltaic panels. For its new showcase of high-tech renewable energy in the western town of Ordos, China is planning to import photovoltaic panels made by U.S.-based First Solar and is hoping the company will set up manufacturing in China. Even if government subsidies allow China to more than triple its photovoltaic installations this year, it will still trail Germany, Italy, the United States and Japan, according to iSuppli, a market research firm.

China does have dozens of wind-turbine manufacturers, but their quality lags far behind that of General Electric, not to mention Europe's Vestas and Siemens. And although a Chinese power company has some technology that might be useful for carbon capture and storage, which many companies see as the key to cutting greenhouse gas emissions from coal plants, it has built only a tiny version to capture carbon dioxide for making soda, rather than exploring needed innovations in storage.

If not for our economic distress, we might be applauding China's clean-energy advances; after all, one first-place position we *have* ceded to China is in greenhouse gas emissions. Limiting those emissions is a job big enough for both of our economies to tackle.

But domestic anxieties have morphed into anxiety about China. "Every day we wait in this nation, China is going to eat our lunch," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said this month. Arguing for nuclear power, as well as renewable energy sources and cleaner ways to use coal, Graham said: "The Chinese don't need 60 votes. I guess they just need one guy's vote over there—and that guy's voted. ... And

See HYPING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Your inner butterflies

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

So how are you doing on your New Year's resolutions? If you're like most people, you set goals you plan to achieve during the year. Even though your intentions are good, you may find that old habits are difficult to break and you find yourself distracted from the activities that will eventually lead you to your goals.

The good news is that only two months have gone by and you still have 10 more months to get back on track. However, if you don't break your old habits, you'll find yourself struggling for the rest of the year and being disappointed when it comes to reviewing your progress.

Often, it is the small distractions that cause you to lose sight of your big goals in life. The theory that seemingly insignificant things can lead to major events or disappointments is called the *butterfly effect*, which comes from meteorologist Edward Lorenz who once asked the peculiar question: "Does the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil set off a tornado in Texas?" Lorenz proposed the idea that the innocuous flapping of a butterfly's fragile wings could start a chain reaction in the atmosphere and lead to catastrophic results.

Understanding the *butterfly effect* could help you identify the inner "butterflies" in your life that cause you to switch directions once you're committed to a goal. Your inner butterflies start out as random thoughts in your head, but they can swirl up and create a tornado in your mind that keeps you off course.

Thoughts are things and will manifest themselves through your actions. Therefore, to control your butterflies, you must be able to identify those thoughts that manifest themselves through distracting actions.

What makes the inner butterfly effect worse are things like multitasking where you try to do several things at once. Even though it appears you are productive, you are not able to fully focus on a single task. Interestingly, we can become butterfly addicts because a frenetic pace creates stress chemicals that people sometimes crave. Some individuals are addicted to their struggles they've created in their lives. People like this are constantly complaining about the chaos in their lives, and they've allowed it to happen so often that it becomes their identity.

To overcome your inner butterflies, you need to first identify them. Take a few minutes to write down the emotional triggers within or outside yourself that cause you to become distracted. Think back to the last time you planned to work on a goal or project, but you became distracted from pursuing it.

Once you have a list of items, identify the one area where you have the most difficulty. Now use the power of visualization to help you overcome the one big trigger by imagining the situation and thinking about what happens right before you get the butterfly. What are you doing or thinking about right before the trigger shows up?

For example, I become easily distracted when I walk by the computer because I have the thought to search different news sites to see what's going happening. A few minutes turns into hours and where I've read a lot of interesting stories local, national, and international stories that will have practically no impact on helping reach my goals.

While you are visualizing, move the picture in slow motion like a movie that has slowed down, and see the process happening and see how it triggers you. Notice how it stops you from doing what you were doing, and how it defocuses your attention.

Once you clearly identify the trigger and what happens prior to it, close your eyes and put a different pathway in front of you right before the trigger occurs so that you stop the action and create a new pattern that keeps you focused. When you have the trigger identified, you can also stop yourself in the visualization, take a deep breath and see yourself return to your original action.

Using my Internet addiction as an example, the thought that comes into my head is: "I wonder what's happening on Saipan and the world?" Then I proceed to check several Web sites. My different pathway could be to eliminate the thought or replace it with another thought that keeps me focused.

By gaining control over your inner butterflies, you will gain greater mastery over your life and find yourself accomplishing much more. As an employee, you will be much more productive and become more valuable to your employer. Chase those butterflies away, and develop the habit of focused concentration.

HYPING

From Page 10

we're stuck in neutral here."

Like others, Graham emphasizes the China threat to propel his fellow lawmakers into action. "Six months ago, my biggest worry was that an emissions deal would make American business less competitive compared to China," he said on a different day. "Now my concern is that every day that we delay trying to find a price for carbon is a day that China uses to dominate the green economy."

In other areas, politicians and pundits also have a tendency to overestimate China's strengths—in ways that leave China looking more ominous than it really is. Recent reports about how China is threatening to take the lead in scientific research seem to ignore the serious problems it is facing with plagiarism and faked results. Projections of China's economic growth seem to shortchange the country's looming demographic crisis: It is going to be the first nation in the world to grow old before it gets rich. By the middle of this century the percentage of its population above age 60 will be higher than in the United States, and more than 100 million Chinese will be older than 80. China also faces serious water shortages that could hurt enterprises from wheat farms to power plants to microchip manufacturers.

And about all those engineers? In 2006, *The New York Times* reported that China graduates 600,000 a year compared with 70,000 in the United States. The *Times* report was quoted on the House floor. Just one problem: China's statisticians count car mechanics and refrigerator repairmen as "engineers."

There is a certain irony to the new Red Scare. When we reported from China in the 1990s, some Chinese neoconservatives achieved rock-star popularity there for promoting the notion that the United States was conspiring to contain China, militarily and economically. They argued that global economic growth was a zero-sum game and that China's gain would be America's loss; as a result, Beijing had to be more assertive in its dealings with the United States.

Legions of U.S. diplomats and business leaders said no, no, no. They assured China that the two nations could grow together. Americans tried to teach Chinese the meaning of the expression "win-win."

And that is the way introductory economics courses teach it. As Gregory Mankiw, a former chairman of President George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers, writes in his popular textbook: Trade "is not like a sports contest, where one side wins and the other side loses. In fact, the opposite is true. Trade between two countries can make each country better off."

And yet a sports contest—or worse—is exactly what the U.S.-Chinese relationship sounds like these days. In discussing energy at the Feb. 3 meeting with governors, Obama warned: "We can't afford to spin our wheels while the rest of the world speeds ahead."

Speeding ahead is a worthy goal, but the United States does not need a bogeyman on its tail to get moving. What may seem like a throwaway line here could damage U.S. relations there, and there are enough reasons for tension with China without manufacturing new ones. As the Chinese strategist Sun Tzu said: "If ignorant both of your enemy and yourself, you are certain to be in peril."

China is no enemy, but inflating the challenge from China could be just as dangerous as underestimating it.

Steven Mufson and John Pomfret are reporters on the national staff of The Washington Post *and former Post Beijing bureau chiefs. mufsons@washpost.com, pomfretj@washpost.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Educators, bullies, and reality

Most people are well aware that bullies usually run with a pack and Mr. Agulto just confirmed this phenomenon. What gets me is that Fancisco R. Agulto and John DelRosario Jr. seems to be under the illusion that they speak for all indigenous people. I know that's not the case and so does everyone else. The reality is that a huge portion of the indigenous and alien population in every social and economic level respects me as an educator and actually appreciates and even requests my input.

Mr. Agulto said in so many words my views are so difficult for him to understand that it is like searching for a marble in the dark. If he really can't understand my views we may have a literacy problem or worse.

I think most people know I'm trying to help and that I am all for the indigenous people retaining the integrity of their culture and special lands for the indigenous people. The challenge is simply how to make fellow citizens equal by sharing the land and how to give local landowners their right to free enterprise! Why is sharing such a hard concept to grasp?

This is my last letter dealing with these two because this was supposed to be about Article XII. Mr. Agulto's statements were just as full of gibberish and oxymorons as Mr. DelRosario's. I really don't have the time and there is nothing for me to gain or prove as most readers already know the kind of people I'm dealing with and how hopeless it is to try and educate them. The reality is that bullies jump on people for offering solutions. The reality is that bullies base their arguments on race and discrimination. The reality is that bullies are promoting a fight with the feds—again, that is not the solution to Article XII.

If you guys or anyone else wants to debate Article XII in a formal setting, just give me a call. I dare Mr. Agulto or Mr. DelRosario Jr. to set this up because I will gladly educate them on the true realities of Article XII, with the hope of finding a solution for all the stakeholders in this critical issue facing our Commonwealth.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Skirting the issue

Mr. Ambrose Bennett: We hail from the sacred lands of our ancestors upon which our cultural traditions were born since 4,000 years ago. I'm not trying to live in the past but merely determined to slam the brakes on any further perpetuation of arrogance from the predominant culture of divide and conquer. We also hail from a culture of reciprocity and I'm not sure you can claim the same.

I asked if the U.S. Constitution is an inclusive document (that includes indigenous Native Americans), to which you replied that their lands were taken from them. Note: I wasn't asking for acquisitions but rather inclusion. Then you went off tangent, demonstrating time and again your frustrated nervousness as an impostor. Furthermore, you're not from within, therefore from without, and you will never be one of us.

Wish to end your senseless diatribe by reminding you of what my friend Frank R. Agulto said of your search for a "black marble in the dark of night without lights, without flashlights, blindfolded, donning thick gloves, trying to feel if you could find that marble." Enough said, Mr. Bennett, and until you can find your cultural identity and language, steer clear of what's rightfully the preserve of the indigenous people.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Surfing Saipan U.S.A.

Surfing the Web during government hours? What's new? It's an everyday routine, you know? Along with coffee and newspaper in the morning. A call to family members. Work a few minutes, making sure that the supervisor see that you are actually doing work. That's if he or she is doing the same thing! Then surf the Web a little, sipping your coffee. Then work a few minutes again. Then betel nut or cigarette break. It's only 8:30am! My gosh, how time goes by so slow. Then doodling on a new bond paper. Before you know it, it's payday with overtime pay. Wow! You didn't break a sweat or your back. A typical employee who does not have interest in his or her job, while thousands are unemployed and will work a full eight hours even at $4.55 an hour.

Like I said before, how many phones do you even need in one office? Why does some computers have Internet access aside from managers? Why are some supervisors or managers abusing the Web? And who paid for it all? Of course, us taxpayers. I suggest that anyone should get the name and report it to the AGO. No use reporting to their superior because he or she may be doing the same thing! Let's go surfing afterwards!

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼76
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

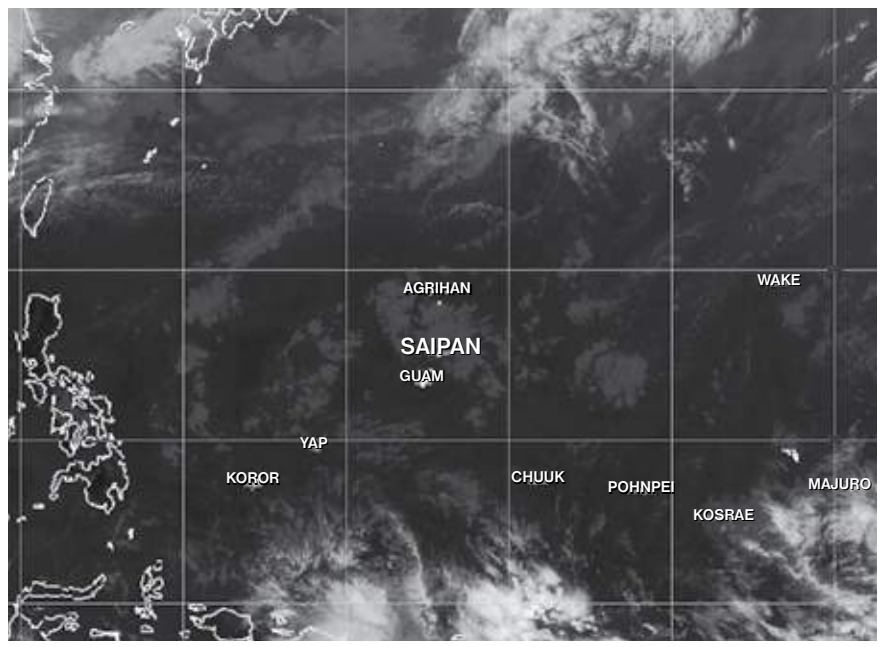
Auckland	Sunny	▲73	▼62
Beijing	Cloudy	▲46	▼23
Hong Kong	Dreary	▲80	▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲75	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼50
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼47
New York	Cloudy	▲40	▼29
Osaka	Rain	▲65	▼50
Paris	Cloudy	▲40	▼22
Pusan	Showers	▲61	▼38
Rome	Rain	▲60	▼36
Salem	Cloudy	▲54	▼38
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲58	▼46
Seoul	Rain	▲45	▼29
Tokyo	Rain	▲56	▼55
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲42	▼28

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
9:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence near the equator is producing scattered showers along and south of 1N from 139E to 143E and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms along and south of 2N from 146E to 153E. These areas are well south of Yap and Chuuk. A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ174E to about 3N177E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Majuro in the area bounded by 5N171E to 5N176E to 1N180 to EQ174E back to 5N171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:56 PM	8:49 AM
Friday	10:54 PM	9:37 AM
Saturday	11:51 PM	10:26 AM
Sunday		11:17 AM
Monday	12:47 AM	12:10 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily Ops 5min later eff Mar 1

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Territorial governors visit National Renewable Energy Lab

GOLDEN, Colorado—CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix Camacho (Guam), and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono met with senior federal principals at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory facilities in Golden, Colorado, Tuesday for discussions on ways to improve energy efficiency and increase renewable energy technologies in the U.S. Pacific territories.

As a special guest speaker, Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter Jr. welcomed the participants and spoke about some of the renewable energy initiatives he has implemented in his State. Such initiatives and goals have established Colorado as a global leader in the New Energy Economy.

Federal government representatives at the meeting included Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas; Lt. Gen. Wallace "Chip" Gregson (USMC, Ret), Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs; Roger M. Natsuhara, acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment; and Steve Lindenberg, Senior Advisor for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy.

"This meeting was intended to bring together the major stakeholders to learn the importance of a comprehensive strategic plan for implementing renewable energy technologies," said Babauta. "After hearing from the experts at our nation's premiere renewable energy laboratory, it has become clear that partnerships between NREL, local and federal governments holds promise for islands to have a clean energy future."

The delegations from each of the territories included the heads of the local utility companies and postsecondary academic institutions. Both are important to implementing comprehensive renewable energy plans and training the future workforce.

"A renewable energy plan cannot survive without the participants' sustained commitment and leadership—political, academic, and the utilities. This is just the beginning of the process. Today's productive exchanges will no doubt lead to greater cooperation and results in the near future," said Babauta.

NREL is operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy, and is a national leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency research, development, demonstration, and deployment. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas; Togiola Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa; Felix Camacho, Governor of Guam; Benigno Fitial, Governor of the CNMI; and Steve Lindenberg, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Renewable Energy at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Mrs. Celina Foreman, who is celebrating her special day today, March 4, 2010! Best wishes coming from your Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Kanako Harada Williams, affectionately known as Kana, who is celebrating her 27th birthday today, March 4! Warm greetings come from your "witnesses"—Chris and Natsu—and the rest of your friends and family! May you live long and prosper! Photo shows birthday celebrant Kana Harada Williams with husband Larry Williams.

NEW GRADUATE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

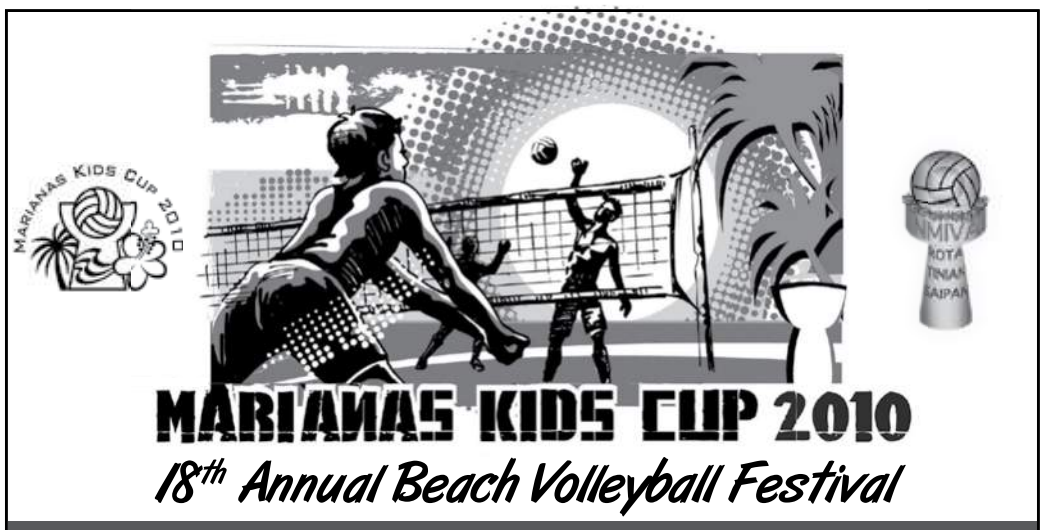
Congratulation to Cerlyn Cabrera on your graduation as a member of Class of 2010, PIMA Medical Institute, Arizona! She is shown here with her mom, Connie Roligat-Cabrera, of San Antonio, Saipan. Greeting comes from your familias.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 13th birthday to our sweet girl Lynette Joyce Varquez, who celebrated her special day yesterday, March 3, 2010. May the almighty God bless you always. We love you so much. Love from Mom, Dad and Tita Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to our little princess, Jryden Jahzny Atalig Fejeran, who is celebrating her birthday today, March 4, 2010! With much love, Mom, Dad, Jacoby, and Jayvehn.



Registration Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2010 • 5-7PM
PIC Seaside Grill (look for Heather & Laurie) 483-7499

Date : Saturday, March 6th, 2010
Time : Registration check-in 8:00-9:00am, games will start at 9am
Entry Fee : $10 per team member ($5 for NMIVA members) includes games, waterpark pass, drink coupons and t-shirt.
Divisions : [1] 14 U • [2] 17 U
Teams : 4-person co-ed, one female player on the court at all times
Up to 5 players per team

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Business

Postal Service's emerging model: Never on Saturday

AP

Letter carrier Kevin Pownall gathers mail from the back of his truck in Philadelphia, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The U.S. Postal Service is increasing the pressure for dropping Saturday home delivery as it seeks to fend off massive financial losses.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The post office is renewing its drive to drop Saturday delivery—and plans a rate increase—in an effort to fend off a projected $7 billion loss this year.

Without drastic action the agency could face a cumulative loss of $238 billion over 10 years, Postmaster General John Potter said in releasing a series of consultant reports on agency operations and its outlook.

"The projections going forward are not bright," Potter told reporters in a briefing. But, he added, "all is not lost ... we can right this ship."

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., chairman of the Senate subcommittee with oversight authority over the Postal Service, called on Congress to give the post office the flexibility to deal with its future needs.

"In light of the serious financial challenges facing the Postal Service, postal management must be allowed to make the business decisions they need to stay competitive and viable in the years to come. As we have seen, it is not productive for Congress to act like a 535-member board of directors and constantly second-guess these necessary changes," Carper said in a statement.

Frederic V. Rolando, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, also urged Congress to provide the post office with "financial breathing room," but he opposed eliminating one day of delivery.

"I do not believe that weakening our commitment of six-day service to the public will enhance the long-term position of the Postal Service as a critical element in our nation's economic infrastructure," Rolando said."

As Americans turn more and more from paper to electronic communications, the number of items handled by the post office fell from 213 billion in 2006 to 177 billion last year. Volume is expected to shrink to 150 billion by 2020. At the same time, the type of material sent is shifting from first-class mail to the less lucrative standard mail, such as advertising.

And as people set up new homes and businesses, the number of places mail must be delivered is constantly increasing.

The agency has asked Congress for permission to reduce delivery days and has previously discussed the need for other changes such as closing some offices.

Feb. US auto sales plow ahead despite snow, Toyota

DETROIT (AP)—Automakers plowed through a snowy February to better-than-expected sales, and new incentives led by beleaguered Toyota will keep the momentum going into spring.

Despite some analysts' predictions of single-digit gains, sales rose 13 percent over last February and all major automakers but Toyota Motor Corp. reported higher U.S. sales. Most took customers from the Japanese automaker, which has been struggling with a series of massive safety recalls. Toyota's U.S. market share fell to 12.8 percent, its lowest level since July 2005, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank.

To win back sales, Toyota said it will offer zero-percent financing on most models this month plus two years of free maintenance to returning customers. General Motors Co. and Chrysler LLC matched the financing deals.

Microsoft CEO: Google merits regulatory scrutiny

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer intends to keep the regulatory heat on Google as his company strives to lessen its rival's dominance of Internet search.

In an appearance Tuesday at a search engine conference, Ballmer said Microsoft believes Google Inc. has done things to gain an unfair advantage in the Internet's lucrative search advertising market. He didn't specify the alleged misconduct. "We are expressing some of the issues and frustrations we see" with antitrust regulators, Ballmer said. "Sometimes (it's) unsolicited, sometimes because we have been asked."

Google declined to comment Tuesday. But it has said its actions are aimed at providing better experiences for Web surfers and advertisers.

AP

Microsoft Corp. CEO Steve Ballmer speaks in Santa Clara, Calif., Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Yahoo Inc., which is about to team up with Microsoft in search, seems less inclined to get regulators involved as the two companies gang up on Google.

"I am actually not interested in government intervention in anything," Yahoo CEO Carol Bartz told reporters during a Tuesday lunch to celebrate the company's 15th anniversary. "I think for the most part markets work. I don't wish antitrust on anyone."

Microsoft already has helped convince U.S. regulators that Google would break antitrust laws in two proposed deals: a search advertising partnership with Yahoo that was scrapped in 2008 and a digital books settlement that still needs federal court approval. Yahoo also lobbied regulators to oppose the agreement that would give Google the electronic rights to millions of hard-to-find books.

Senate votes unemployment benefits, highway funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate on Tuesday passed a $10 billion measure to maintain unemployment benefits for the long-term jobless and provide stopgap funding for highway programs after a holdout Republican dropped stalling tactics that had generated a Washington firestorm.

Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning had been holding up action for days but conceded after pressure intensified with Monday's cutoff of road funding and extended unemployment benefits and health insurance subsidies for the jobless.

Bunning wanted to force Democrats to find ways to finance the bill so that it wouldn't add to the deficit, but his move sparked a political tempest that subjected Republicans to withering media coverage and cost the party politically. Bunning's support among Republicans was dwindling, while Democrats used to being on the defensive over health care and the deficit seemed to relish a battle that could reinforce their argument that Republicans are bent on obstruction of President Barack Obama's agenda at any cost.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stocks rise amid hopes of Greece resolution

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets rose Wednesday amid growing hopes of a solution to Greece's financial crisis. Major markets added less than 1 percent as the region extended its gains for a fourth straight day. The dollar was lower against the yen and the euro, while oil prices were little changed. Worries about Greece's ability to stabilize its finances have eased in recent days amid speculation European leaders will orchestrate a bailout and the government will take needed steps to reduce its mountain of debt. Greece's prime minister is set to announce deeper spending cuts later Wednesday. If the measures are tough enough, that could pave the way for a lifeline when Greek and German leaders meet on Friday, analysts said.

Oil hovers below $80 on mixed US supplies report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below $80 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a crude inventory report gave mixed signs about U.S. demand. Benchmark crude for April delivery was up 3 cents to $79.71 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 98 cents to settle at $79.68 on Tuesday. U.S. crude inventories grew more than expected last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Crude stocks jumped 2.7 million barrels while analysts had expected a rise of 1.1 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos. However, distillate supplies, which include heating oil and diesel, dropped 4.1 million barrels while gasoline inventories rose by 900,000 barrels.

Bristol-Myers CEO to retire; COO to succeed him

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Drugmaker Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. said Tuesday its chief executive will retire in May and be succeeded by the current chief operating officer. The move is the fourth official retirement from a senior health company executive position for James M. Cornelius, who had run Bristol-Myers for 3 1/2 years. He will remain chairman at the request of the company's board. The board chose Lamberto Andreotti, 59, to take over from Cornelius as the CEO. Andreotti was named president and chief operating officer, in charge of the global pharmaceutical business, in March 2009. That positioned him to succeed Cornelius, who is now 66.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,743.80 Up 33.10 (+0.72%)
HONG KONG	20,911.97 Up 5.86 (+0.03%)
JAKARTA	2,581.20 Up 4.61 (+0.18%)
TOKYO	10,253.14 Up 31.30 (+0.31%)
K. LUMPUR	1,285.89 Down 2.18 (-0.17%)
MANILA	3,069.29 Up 7.40 (+0.24%)
SINGAPORE	2,771.45 Down 0.75 (-0.03%)
SEOUL	1,622.44 Up 7.32 (+0.45%)
BANGKOK	734.41 Up 1.22 (+0.17%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,405.98 +2.19%
S&P	1,118.31 +2.60%
NASDAQ	2,280.79 +7.22%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1061
British Pound	0.6663
Canadian Dollar	1.0345
Chinese Yuan	6.8310
Euro	0.7338
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7629
Indian Rupee	45.9050
Indonesian Rupiah	9,285.0000
Japanese Yen	88.8750
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3700
New Zealand Dollar	1.4350
Philippine Peso	46.0450
Singapore Dollar	1.4019
South Korean Won	1,147.3000
Swiss Franc	1.0737
Taiwan Dollar	31.9930
Thailand Baht	32.7000

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Missing California teen's body believed found

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A body found in a shallow grave Tuesday is believed to be that of 17-year-old Chelsea King, whose disappearance led to the arrest of a registered sex offender, authorities said.

The remains were found buried in a park about 10 feet from the shoreline of Lake Hodges, San Diego County Sheriff William Gore said.

"Although positive identification has not been made, there is (a) strong likelihood that we have found Chelsea," he told reporters.

Gore said he had informed the teen's parents.

"Obviously they are devastated and I ask that you respect their privacy during this extremely difficult time," he said.

Police, meanwhile, said the registered sex offender suspected in King's disappearance likely assaulted a jogger in December in the same park.

The 22-year-old Colorado woman managed to fend off her attacker on Dec. 27 in Rancho Bernardo Community Park on the northern edge of San Diego, where King's 1994 BMW was found with her belongings inside, police Capt. Jim Collins said.

AP

People hold candles during a candlelight vigil held at St. Michael's Catholic Church for missing teenager Chelsea King Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in Poway, Calif.

Police said evidence has linked 30-year-old John Albert Gardner III to both cases but further details have not been released.

Collins, however, said a swab taken from the elbow of the Colorado woman did not match Gardner's DNA.

Gardner is now in custody without bail for investigation of murder and rape in the King case.

Gardner of Lake Elsinore pleaded guilty in May 2000 to molesting a 13-year-old female neighbor. Prosecutors said he lured the victim to his home with an offer to watch "Patch Adams," a 1998 movie starring Robin Williams

The girl was beaten before escaping and running to a neighbor.

Gardner served five years in prison after prosecutors rejected a psychiatrist's advice to seek stiffer punishment, court documents state.

Prosecutors said in 2000 that Gardner's lack of a significant prior criminal record justified less than the maximum sentence. They also said they wanted to "spare the victim the trauma of testifying."

Gardner had faced a maximum of nearly 11 years in prison under terms of his plea agreement. Prosecutors urged six years—the sentence later ordered by a judge.

In their 11-page sentencing memo, prosecutors said Gardner "never expressed one scintilla of remorse for his attack upon the victim" despite overwhelming evidence.

Psychiatrist Dr. Matthew Carroll wrote in sentencing documents, "There is no known treatment for an individual that sexually assaults girls and does not admit to it in any way."

Paul Pfingst, the San Diego County district attorney in 2000, said he had no memory of the case but added a six-year sentence was not unusual for someone with no significant prior criminal record.

The district attorney's office declined to comment or make available David Hendren, the prosecutor who handled the case.

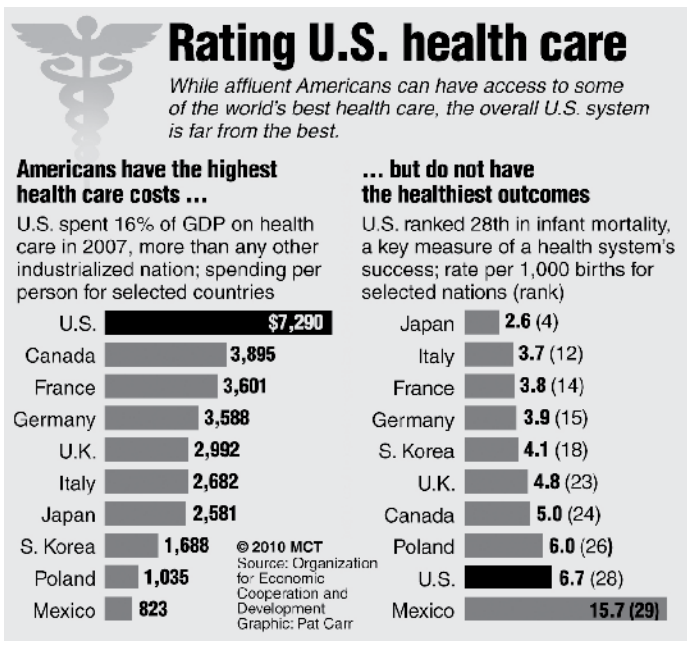
State records showed Gardner was released from prison on Sept. 26, 2005 and was on parole for three years.

Obama cites GOP ideas as he preps health care plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama embraced a handful of Republican health care ideas Tuesday to lure Democratic votes as he prepared to spell out his final package for a sharply divided House and Senate, where its fate is unsure.

In a bit of political sleight of hand, Obama said he might include four GOP-sponsored ideas in his plan, even though virtually no one in Congress or the White House thinks it will procure a single Republican vote.

The move is aimed instead at wavering Democrats, especially in the House. Some of them might find it easier to vote for the health care package if they can tell constituents it had bipartisan elements that Republicans should have supported. Yet there is no guarantee that Democratic leaders will incorporate Obama's suggestions in revised legislation.


Rating U.S. health care
While affluent Americans can have access to some of the world's best health care, the overall U.S. system is far from the best.
Americans have the highest health care costs ...
U.S. spent 16% of GDP on health care in 2007, more than any other industrialized nation; spending per person for selected countries
U.S. $7,290
Canada 3,895
France 3,601
Germany 3,588
U.K. 2,992
Italy 2,682
Japan 2,581
S. Korea 1,688
Poland 1,035
Mexico 823
... but do not have the healthiest outcomes
U.S. ranked 28th in infant mortality, a key measure of a health system's success; rate per 1,000 births for selected nations (rank)
Japan 2.6 (4)
Italy 3.7 (12)
France 3.8 (14)
Germany 3.9 (15)
S. Korea 4.1 (18)
U.K. 4.8 (23)
Canada 5.0 (24)
Poland 6.0 (26)
U.S. 6.7 (28)
Mexico 15.7 (29)
© 2010 MCT
Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
Graphic: Pat Carr

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell warned that Democrats will enact their health care plan at their own political peril, vowing to make it an issue in every congressional race this fall.

In remarks at the White House on Wednesday, the president will describe the final elements of his proposal and then ask Congress to enact it, aides said. He is expected to leave no doubt that, barring an unexpected change in Republican tactics, he wants Congress to pass the legislation using budget reconciliation rules, which prohibit Senate filibusters. Obama is unlikely to use those exact words, as Democratic leaders are emphasizing they want to pass a bill with simple majority votes in the House and Senate.

It takes 60 votes to halt a filibuster, and Democrats control only 59 in the 100-member Senate.

In a letter to congressional leaders Tuesday, Obama said he would consider four ideas floated by Republican lawmakers: sending investigators disguised as patients to uncover fraud and waste in Medicare and Medicaid; expanding pilot programs to bring more predictability to medical malpractice lawsuits; increasing payments to Medicaid providers; and expanding the use of health savings accounts.

"I said throughout this process that I'd continue to draw on the best ideas from both parties, and I'm open to these proposals in that spirit," Obama wrote.

In a nod to his 2008 presidential rival, he said he had eliminated a special deal for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in Florida and other states that drew criticism from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Rangel denies he's giving up tax writing chair

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Charles Rangel denied Tuesday that he's stepping down as chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee in the wake of an ethics report that admonished him for taking two corporate-paid trips.

A Democratic source had said Rangel was likely to "temporarily" relinquish his chair amid rising concern among some Democrats that Rangel's troubles posed a political risk. The source spoke anonymously to discuss a sensitive internal party matter.

Asked if he was still chairman Tuesday evening, Rangel said: "You bet your life." Pressed if he was planning to step down temporarily, he said, "No."

Rangel issued his denials after meeting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to discuss his fate. Pelosi, emerging from her office after Rangel, said she had no comment.

Rangel was scheduled to chair a Ways and Means Committee meeting Wednesday morning.

The House ethics committee last week said Rangel violated congressional gift rules by taking trips to the Caribbean in 2007 and 2008 that had corporate sponsors. The New York Democrat told ethics investigators that he did not know the trips were paid by corporations.

Rangel still faces multiple ethics complaints. Several of his House supporters said any action against him should await the conclusion of the ethics committee investigation.

NY state police chief abruptly retires in scandal

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—An unfolding scandal threatening Gov. David Paterson and his administration claimed its second public safety official Tuesday when the head of the New York State Police said he was retiring, partly because of intense media scrutiny.

And late Tuesday night, The New York Times reported that Paterson told a state employee in February to contact a woman at the heart of the scandal who had accused a Paterson aide of domestic violence to "make this go away." Soon after, the woman dropped her case against the aide. The newspaper attributed the executive branch worker's recollection of the governor's request to a person with knowledge of the state worker's testimony to investigators in the attorney general's office.

A Paterson spokesman denied Tuesday night that the governor ever told the worker to "make this go away."

The head of the state police, Superintendent Harry Corbitt, had acknowledged in February that a state police official had contact with the woman who accused the aide of assaulting her on Halloween in New York City's Bronx borough. Soon after, the woman dropped the domestic violence complaint against the aide, David Johnson.

On Tuesday in a TV interview, Corbitt talked about the pressures of being involved in the story and why he was leaving office—a course some critics are also urging the Democratic governor to take.

"Any individual who is criticized constantly feels that pain," Corbitt told the cable station Capital News 9. "And in most cases there is some way to fight back. But in public service there is not. I'm not an elected official; I'm a public servant, I'm a cop. And a good cop. So to continue to face that pressure, and even pressure from my family, the media showing up in my driveway - that's unacceptable. So for my own health and for my own sanity it's the right thing to do."

Corbitt's boss, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Denise O'Donnell, resigned a week ago, saying direct contact by the governor and troopers with the woman was "unacceptable" regardless of their intent.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas executes man convicted of killing Brazilian

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—The state of Texas has executed a Dallas-area man convicted of fatally shooting a Brazilian engineer. Thirty-two-year-old Michael Sigala received a lethal injection Tuesday night for the August 2000 fatal shooting of 28-year-old Kleber Santos, whose job had brought him to Texas shortly after he was married. Santos' wife was also killed in the attack at their apartment in the Dallas suburb of Plano. Sigala was charged with the wife's slaying but was not tried.

Ex-Cherokee chief Mankiller diagnosed with cancer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The husband of former Cherokee Nation Chief Wilma Mankiller says his wife has been diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. Mankiller's husband, Charlie Soap, made the announcement Tuesday in a news release issued by the tribe. Soap said the 64-year-old Mankiller has stage 4 metastatic pancreatic cancer but offered no other details. He asked that the public respect the family's privacy.

Police: Patient, 85, shoots Conn. hospital nurse

DANBURY, Conn. (AP)—Police say an 85-year-old patient shot and wounded a nursing supervisor in a Connecticut hospital. They say the nurse suffered non-life-threatening wounds while trying to subdue the patient Tuesday afternoon. They say he was rushed to the emergency unit for treatment. Police say the man pulled a gun after the nurse went in to treat him and shot the victim three times after he tried to grab the weapon.

The man shot himself in the leg while being restrained after the attack and has been hospitalized. He faces charges, including first-degree assault and carrying a revolver without a permit. Bond is set at $250,000.

Fla. man pleads guilty to threatening president

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man faces up to 10 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to charges of threatening to kill President Barack Obama and his family. Federal prosecutors said 30-year-old Renee Curet pleaded guilty Tuesday in Pensacola. A judge scheduled Curet's sentencing for May 11. According to the U.S. attorney's office, Curet is already in custody at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution on unrelated charges. In an October letter to the White House, Curet threatened to kill the president and everybody in the Pentagon.

Asia

Taliban, not drugs, focus of US-Afghan offensive

AP
In this Monday Feb. 15, 2010 file photo, U.S. Marines from 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment advance in an open poppy field during a firefight as Taliban fighters fire on them in the town of Marjah in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Even by Afghan standards, it was a startling find: An opium packaging workshop, buried under donkey dung and old hay in a stable that U.S. Marines turned into a patrol base in southern Afghanistan.

Two U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration employees nosing around the base found more than two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of opium, five large bags of poppy seeds, some 50 sickles, jugs and a large scale for measuring opium.

When the Marines leave the compound this week, though, they won't detain the old, bearded Afghan man suspected of owning the hidden cache. Instead, they'll hand him $600 in rent for using his place as a base.

It's a story that illustrates the shift in strategy to stall the Taliban's momentum in Afghanistan. The more than 2-week-old military offensive on the town of Marjah—NATO's largest ever combined Afghan offensive—is a war on the Taliban, not drugs.

The opium workshop, on a compound near the entrance to the former Taliban-controlled town of Marjah, was found mostly out of luck and idleness.

"I just decided to start poking around," said Joe, who like his colleague, Jack, only went by his first name because they work for a DEA special intervention unit stationed in Afghanistan. "I've had plenty of time on my hands."

The two DEA agents, both bearded and wearing military fatigues, had been stuck on the compound in Helmand province for the past several days because every Marine convoy heading in and out of the area had struck a roadside bomb, knocking out armored vehicles and considerably delaying travel plans.

Beijing on alert as annual political session opens

BEIJING (AP)—Black-clad SWAT teams patrolled downtown Beijing on Tuesday and an AIDS group was ordered to cancel a seminar as part of China's security clampdown ahead of this week's opening of the national legislature's annual session.

Officers on motorcycles and in armored vans circled Tiananmen Square in the heart of the capital, adjacent to the Great Hall of the People where members of the legislature's advisory body begin meeting Wednesday.

The actual legislature, a largely ceremonial body known as the National People's Congress, begins its nearly two-week session Friday.

Foot patrols were stepped-up around the square and retirees mobilized by neighborhood committees to watch for trouble were stationed every few yards (meters) along Chang'an Boulevard that runs along the vast plaza's northern edge.

Police were also cracking down on people visiting Beijing to petition for government legal assistance over various grievances. A group of about half a dozen women who approached the Great Hall carrying shopping bags and wads of documents were forced into a police van and driven away.

As is routine during the session, the highlight of the Chinese political calendar, dissidents and groups working on sensitive social issues were coming under increased pressure.

AIDS activist Wan Yanhai, founder of the Beijing-based Aizhixing Institute, said police had ordered him to cancel a seminar planned for Wednesday to mark International Sex Worker Rights Day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Angry parents torch school in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A group of parents torched a school in the central Philippines after complaining their children weren't given the food promised by a government program aimed at boosting school attendance, police said Tuesday. The gutted walls were all that remained of the one-story Gaib Elementary School in Masbate island province, said provincial police chief Ed Benigay. No one was hurt because the school was empty when it burned down overnight, he said. "It was done by some disgruntled parents who reportedly got mad at some teachers over perceived discrimination in the school's nourishment program," he said.

Hong Kong presses new charge in 'milkshake murder'

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong prosecutors on Wednesday issued a new murder indictment against Nancy Kissel, an American who successfully appealed an earlier conviction on charges of drugging and then bashing her husband to death in a luxury apartment complex. Hong Kong's Department of Justice submitted the fresh murder charges against Kissel to the territory's High Court, which scheduled a 50-day trial starting Nov. 1, said one of her lawyers, Alexander King. Her attorneys had hoped the charges would be reduced to manslaughter. Kissel was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of murder in September 2005.

North Korean soldier defects to South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's top spy agency says a North Korean soldier has defected to South Korea. The National Intelligence Service said Wednesday that the North Korean soldier was being questioned over the reasons for his defection. It declined to give his name, rank or the date he defected. The announcement came days after the North said it detained four South Koreans for illegally entering the country. The North did not identify the South Koreans or say when they allegedly entered North Korea.

World

Serbia, Bosnia want custody of ex-Bosnian leader

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Serbia and Bosnia on Tuesday both demanded custody of a former Bosniak leader arrested in London on war crimes allegations, further straining relations between the two Balkan nations.

Ex-Bosnian deputy President Ejup Ganic was picked up Monday, adding to ethnic tensions already inflamed by the trial of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic at a U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Serbia said Tuesday it would demand the immediate extradition of Ganic. Bosnia quickly filed its own extradition demand. The two nations fought one another in the 1992-1995 Bosnian war, which killed tens of thousands of people.

Serbian Justice Minister Snezana Malovic said Ganic, who was detained by British police at London's Heathrow airport on a Serbian warrant, is suspected of ordering the killing of more than 40 Yugoslav army soldiers retreating from Sarajevo at the beginning of the war.

She said Serbia's extradition demand will include accusations that Ganic committed war crimes against "the wounded and sick, unlawful killing and use of illegal combat means."

Boris Grubesic, the spokesman for Bosnia's State Prosecutor's office, said Tuesday that Ganic had been under investigation in Bosnia for the alleged killings for the past four years. Still, it was clear that Bosnia's move was meant to pre-empt Ganic being shipped to Serbia.

Neither country has formally charged Ganic.

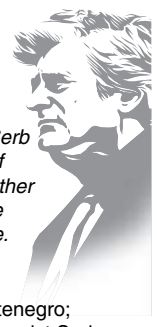
The former leader's daughter, Emina, told The Associated Press in London that funds have been raised to post bail for Ganic. A London court will decide Wednesday whether Ganic can be released until his next court appearance on Mar. 29, she said.

"We are confident that we are meeting the requirements that would allow him to be freed from incarceration," she said.

In Sarajevo, Bosniak presidency member Haris Silajdzic said Ganic's arrest undermines Bosnia's sovereignty and amounts to Serbia seeking to discredit the country's "legitimate defense" against Serb aggression during the war.

"This is not the first attempt to relativize and set equal blame," he said. "There will be more, but we will fight to defend the rights of our citizens and the dignity of our resistance to the aggression that was launched on Bosnia."

Radovan Karadzic



Wartime Bosnian Serb leader – accused of genocide, among other charges – takes the stand at The Hague.

Early years

Born 1945, in Montenegro; raised by anti-communist Serb nationalists; becomes a psychiatrist and amateur poet

Nationalist leader

1989 Cofounded the right-wing Serb Democratic Party

1992-95 Led Serbs against Muslims during Bosnia's civil war

1995 Indicted for war crimes involving the seige of Sarajevo, the mass murder of 8,000 Muslims at Srebrenica

1997 Went underground to avoid capture

2008 Arrested after being found living disguised

2009-10 Stands trial in The Hague; tries to paint Serbs as victims of Muslims' drive for independence

Source: Reuters, BBC © 2010 MCT

Post-quake chaos, looting wound Chile's pride

CONCEPCION, Chile (AP)—Chile's president defended herself Tuesday against charges of government incompetence in a disaster that not only shattered lives and property but challenged the nation's very identity.

A society built on pride in its wealth and orderliness found itself suddenly facing gangs of rioters, a wounded economy and a shaken sense of civic responsibility. A government that sent 15 tons of food and medicine, a search and rescue team and 20 doctors to Haiti after the earthquake there found itself seeking emergency aid from other countries.

In Lota, a former coal mining town of 30,000 along the heavily damaged coast, Mayor Jorge Venegas said Tuesday that a "psychosis" had taken hold.

A gas station went up in flames, gunfire rattled through the night and residents guarded streets against roaming bands of looters, he told Radio Bio Bio. He said 2,000 homes had been destroyed, thousands were living in the streets and people were wielding guns, iron bars and long sticks to protect their possessions.

"It's urgent that the army reach our city," Venegas pleaded.

"It's a collective hysteria," said Francisco Santa Cruz, 20, an aid worker caring for 56 families in a camp for the newly homeless in San Pedro, across the Bio Bio River from Concepcion, the biggest city in the quake zone.

Like Venegas in Lota, Santa Cruz said he heard gunfire throughout the night.

"They used to call us (Chileans) the jaguars of South America," he said, using Chilean slang for proud and strong. "But now we know that we're not even close to that."

WORLD BRIEFS

Clinton brings phones, promises to quake-hit Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a small dent in Chile's growing needs following a massive earthquake, handing over 25 satellite phones Tuesday while promising more in the country's capital. "We stand ready to help in any way that the government of Chile asks us to. We want to help Chile who has done so much to help others," Clinton said during a brief visit that took her nowhere near areas with heavy damage. She spent most of her time at an undamaged area of the airport. Clinton toured an area of the airport where tea, flour and other supplies were being loaded into boxes for shipment to parts of the country where supplies are short.

Guatemala arrests national police chief, drug czar

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Authorities arrested Guatemala's anti-drug czar and national police chief Tuesday in a case involving stolen cocaine and slain police, acting just two days before U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrives to discuss the drug war. The detentions were the latest embarrassment for Guatemala's embattled anti-narcotics effort and came amid U.S. complaints that corruption is impeding the battle to stop the flow of drugs north through Central America. Attorney General Amilcar Velasquez said Police Chief Baltazar Gomez, anti-drug czar Nelly Bonilla and police officer Fernando Carrillo were detained after an investigation by Guatemalan authorities and the U.N.-sponsored International Commission Against Impunity.

Environment

Now is the time to give that old appliance the boot

By TERRI BENNETT
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

If you're still staring at that old appliance in your kitchen thinking someday I'm going to replace that, this may be the year to take action.

Rebate programs are available in every state in 2010 for certain types of Energy Star rated appliances. Upgrading to energy efficient appliances will help you do your part to use less power and water. Plus your utility bill will reflect the savings and you'll reduce the amount of emissions produced at the nearby power plant.

The Energy Star label is a government rating designated to household appliances that operate 10-30 percent more efficiently than federal guidelines.

Check the label closely when you shop. Some brands offer products labeled "Energy Saver" or "Energy Saving" but they don't necessarily meet the strict Energy Star guidelines.

Energy Star rated models will clearly save on your utility bills too. An Energy Star rated washing machine uses 30 percent less energy and 50 percent less water for a savings of more than $100 a year. Avoid using the hot water cycle and save even more.

Upgrading to an Energy Star rated refrigerator will use at least 20 percent less energy than your existing unit, saving hundreds over its lifetime. Energy efficient models may cost a bit more but the savings over the lifetime of the appliance often offset the upfront cost in a relatively short period of time. Plus, with additional rebates available on certain Energy Star appliances you'll see the payoff even sooner.

The federal government recently made $300 million in rebates available to states for consumers replacing outdated appliances. You can go online to Energysavers.gov to see exactly what your state is offering and when.

And, to find out if there are other special offers going on by zip code, you can go to the Energystar.gov Web site for more information.

Remember that anytime you replace an appliance you should recycle the old one. Even if they are no longer usable, the components often contain valuable metals that can be salvaged and turned into new materials. Use the search feature at Earth911.com to find locations near you that will accept used appliances for recycling.

Whether you end up with that candy-apple red clothes washer or the stainless steel refrigerator you've been eying, it's important to look for the Energy Star label. It's another easy way to Do Your Part—even while you shop. For more information: www.DoYourPart.com.

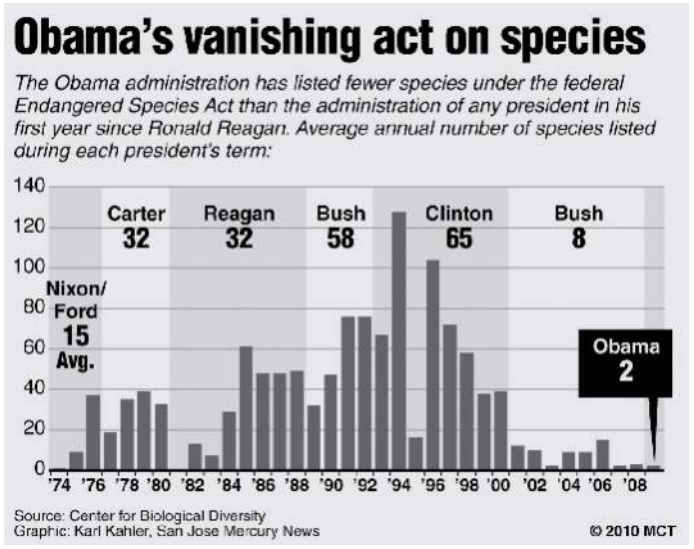
Obama approach to protecting wildlife angers some environmentalists

By PAUL ROGERS
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—During his first year in office, President Barack Obama won praise from environmental groups for a wide range of decisions, from toughening gas mileage rules to spending billions on renewable energy projects.

But now there's grumbling on his green flank. A growing number of environmentalists are clashing with the administration over its management of America's struggling wildlife populations and what they call its reluctance to use the nation's most powerful environmental law, the Endangered Species Act, to stand up to industry.

Last week, five conservation groups, led by the Sierra Club, sued the federal government after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refused to draw up critical habitat maps for the Florida panther. Florida's state animal, the iconic panther, once widely roamed the South, but today numbers 100 or fewer. Protecting its habitat would limit development in parts of South Florida, an explosive political issue.


Obama's vanishing act on species
The Obama administration has listed fewer species under the federal Endangered Species Act than the administration of any president in his first year since Ronald Reagan. Average annual number of species listed during each president's term:
Carter 32
Reagan 32
Bush 58
Clinton 65
Bush 8
Nixon/ Ford 15 Avg.
Obama 2
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
'74 '76 '78 '80 '82 '84 '86 '88 '90 '92 '94 '96 '98 '00 '02 '04 '06 '08
Source: Center for Biological Diversity
Graphic: Karl Kahler, San Jose Mercury News
© 2010 MCT

Two weeks earlier, the administration sparked controversy when it announced it would not add the American pika to the endangered species list. Found in California's Sierra Nevada range and the Rocky Mountains, the pika is a rabbit-like mammal that has been considered symbolic of the impact of global warming because it can overheat and die at temperatures above 78 degrees. However, declaring it endangered could have led to new restrictions on coal mining, oil drilling and other fossil fuel uses. The Fish and Wildlife Service said although it expects the West to warm, and although pika numbers are declining, there is enough alpine land for the pika to move to higher elevations and not go extinct.

"We're coming off eight years of the Bush administration where they actively worked to cripple endangered species programs," said biologist Noah Greenwald, endangered species program director for the Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit group in Tucson. "We would have liked to have seen a strong effort by the Obama administration. But we just haven't seen it."

MANY LAWSUITS

In its first year, Obama's administration added only two new species to the endangered list, the fewest in any president's first year since Ronald Reagan in 1981.

While those species, the Idaho slick spot pepper grass and a white flower named *Phyllostegia hispida*, found only on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, now have protection, 249 other species remain on the "candidates" list. Federal biologists have concluded they are scientifically worthy of protection but they haven't been declared endangered because of other priorities for the department.

Valerie Fellows, a spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the agency plans to list 55 new species this year, including 48 found only on Kauai. Much of the past year, she said, was spent responding to lawsuits filed over the past decade.

"Up until very recently, our entire listing budget was driven completely by court-ordered action, lawsuits and litigation," Fellows said.

But now that the agency is digging out, it can do more proactive work, she said.

Because the Endangered Species Act, signed by President Nixon in 1973, can be used to limit development, logging, mining and other projects, adding new species can be controversial. When the Bush administration designated the polar bear as "threatened" in 2008, roughly 10 lawsuits were filed against the federal government, Fellows said, some by groups arguing it shouldn't be protected and others by groups wanting more protections.

"A lot of these groups know the constraints we are under for funding, and they continue to really barrage us with lawsuits," she said.

Some who have worked to limit environmental laws say they aren't troubled by the trend, and that fewer species should be listed because endangered-species rules curb important economic activity.

"Frankly, the Obama administration is defending the record of the Fish and Wildlife Service under President Bush," said William Perry Pendley, president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, a property rights group in Denver that once was run by James Watt, Reagan's Interior secretary. "But the bottom line is that Obama's been up to enough mischief in other areas—global warming, a war on oil and gas development, that kind of thing—to certainly balance it out."

DO YOUR PART

Bottled water everywhere, and all that plastic stinks

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

We all know that drinking water is good for us. But half of Americans are still buying their water in disposable plastic bottles. That's an enormous waste of both resources and money but I bet you didn't know it's also a waste of water.

Sure bottled water is convenient but there are many reasons to break the habit and you'll be saving more than money instantly. The sticker shock alone is a good reason to make a change.

Americans currently spend about $12 billion annually on bottled water. When you give up a 12 pack a week you'd save about $75 a year and the savings in natural resources are even more impressive.

Research at the Pacific Institute determined that it takes three times as much water to make the plastic bottle than it does to fill it. It also takes a couple of ounces of oil to produce each plastic bottle and let's not forget about the air pollution created transporting those heavy water bottles across the country.

Breaking the bottled water habit starts with investing in reusable bottles for your family. They come in all shapes and sizes and will pay for themselves in a matter of weeks. If you feel like you need filtered water, you can buy all sorts of water filters for your home including some that will screw right onto your faucet.

But remember, most independent tests show that your tap water is just as safe as bottled water and about a quarter of all bottled water is just tap water in fancy packaging.

If for some reason, you do have to buy bottled water—pick a better bottle. Look for ones made with less plastic and make sure you recycle them. Right now, only 2 of every 10 water bottles are recycled. That means roughly 3 million plastic bottles are going to the landfill every day in America.

And here's something not everyone knows: many recycling programs do not accept the plastic bottle caps because they clog up and jam the recycling process. One option for recycling the caps is to take them, and most other rigid, screw on plastic caps, to an Aveda store. The recycled caps are turned into new caps and containers for Aveda products.

You can also start your own collection of plastic caps and ship them directly to Aveda Caps, ACA Waste Services, 40 Eads St, West Babylon, NY 11704.

If you stop and think about all that goes into the making, shipping, and paying for water in disposable plastic bottles, it's easy to understand why we should all ban the bottled water.

Life & Style

THE CURIOUS CASE OF ALICE

By JOE WILLIAMS
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

The heroine of Tim Burton's new movie is an ageless icon

Mia Wasikowska stars in "Alice in Wonderland."
DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC./MCT

"One pill makes you larger, and one pill makes you small."

—Jefferson Airplane, "White Rabbit"

Alice Pleasance Liddell was 3 years old in 1855 when her family met a shy deacon named Charles Lutwidge Dodgson in Oxford, England. She was 10 when she urged Dodgson to make a book out of the stories he invented for the three Liddell girls on rowing trips. She was 11 when a mysterious rift ended their friendship. And she was 13 when "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was published under the pen name Lewis Carroll and became an international sensation.

The Alice in Carroll's nonsensical story is 7 years old, born on the same date as Liddell (May 4), and precisely 7 { in the sequel, "Though the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There."

Yet many of the devotees who have adapted the Alice character for other media insist on treating the girl as a curious adolescent and treating her trip down the rabbit hole as a parable of initiation.

A film version from 1933, featuring W.C. Fields, Gary Cooper and Cary Grant among Wonderland's creatures, starred Charlotte Henry, who was 19.

"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" was beloved by Vladimir Nabokov, who considered it akin to his scandalous "Lolita" and translated Carroll's book into Russian. The Jefferson Airplane made Alice a mascot of the hookah-smoking, mushroom-eating counterculture of the '60s.

Helena Bonham Carter stars in "Alice in Wonderland."
DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC./MCT

In 1976, there was a soft-core porn "Alice in Wonderland" starring former Playboy centerfold Kristine DeBell. In 1981, Meryl Streep, then 33, played the character in a Broadway musical called "Alice in the Palace."

And in Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland," which opens Friday, Alice (Mia Wasikowska) is explicitly 19, with no memory of her previous visit to Wonderland.

The Burton film is a sequel of sorts, as the soon-to-be married Alice follows a harried hare back down the rabbit hole and gets caught in a war between the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) and the White Queen (Anne Hathaway). Johnny Depp co-stars as the Mad Hatter.

The revisionism is even more extreme in a fantasy-book trilogy called "The Looking Glass Wars" by Frank Beddor. In his books, the heroine is Alyss Heart, the exiled princess of Wonderland, who travels to Earth to seek refuge from her murderous Aunt Redd. While Alyss is waiting for her faithful bodyguard, Hatter Madigan, to spearhead her return to power, she tells her tragic tale to Charles Dodgson—and is shocked when he turns it into a children's story.

Beddor said last week from Hollywood, where he is developing a movie version of the board game Monopoly, that he wanted to liberate Alice from the bookshelves of young girls and make her story a source of excitement for teen boys. His franchise also includes a series of graphic novels called "Hatter M," in which the heavily armed Madigan scours Europe for the exiled princess; video games; a clothing line; and trading cards.

Beddor said that on a recent book tour to England, he was met at Heathrow Airport by a band of angry "Alice" aficionados waving placards that read "Off with his head!"

Yet Dodgson's reputation is hardly pure. Although he was a mathematics professor with a comfortable income, he never married, and some biographers have speculated that his relationship with young Alice Liddell was romantic—or even sexual.

An accomplished photographer, Dodgson is known to have taken many seminude portraits of preteen girls, including Alice, and the pages of his diary pertaining to this period were torn from their bindings and presumably destroyed.

When the author and his muse were reunited for tea two decades later, he wrote in his journal: "It was not easy to link in one's mind the new face with the older memory—the stranger with the so-intimately known and loved 'Alice,' whom I shall always remember as an entirely fascinating seven-year-old maiden." In the movie "Dreamchild," the grown Alice remembers his fascination as illicit.

Whether lurid or loving, Dodgson's devotion is spelled out on the final page of "Through the Looking Glass," in a poem that is also a puzzle. By reading the first letter of each line, alert readers can learn the inspiration for this timeless tale:

A boat, beneath a sunny sky
Lingering onward dreamily
In an evening of July —
Children three that nestle near,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Pleased a simple tale to hear —
Long has paled that sunny sky:
Echoes fade and memories die:
Autumn frosts have slain July.
Still she haunts me, phantomwise,
Alice moving under skies
Never seen by waking eyes.
Children yet, the tale to hear,
Eager eye and willing ear,
Lovingly shall nestle near.
In a Wonderland they lie,
Dreaming as the days go by,
Dreaming as the summers die:
Ever drifting down the stream —
Lingering in the golden gleam —
Life, what is it but a dream?

ALICE MOVIES THROUGH THE YEARS

Lewis Carroll's two "Alice" books have been adapted for the screen more than 20 times, including silent, animated and musical versions. Disney, the studio releasing the new Tim Burton version, has done at least three "Alice" movies, including a 1925 silent, "Alice's Adventure in Cartoonland." That mix of live action and animation is one of the few versions with a heroine who resembles the 7-year-old Alice in the books. Following are some of the many versions that have skewed Alice's age upward:

■ "Alice in Wonderland" (1949), a British-French production, part live-action, starring Carol Marsh, 23.

■ "Alice Through the Looking Glass" (1966), a made-for-TV musical starring Judi Rolin, 20; co-starring Jack Palance, Agnes Moorehead and Ricardo Montalban.

■ "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" (1972), a British movie musical starring Fiona Fullerton, 16; co-starring Michael Crawford, Peter Sellers and Dudley Moore.

■ "Alice" (1990), a loose, contemporary adaptation by Woody Allen, starring Mia Farrow, 45.

■ "Alice in Wonderland" (1999), a television movie starring Tina Majorino, 14; co-starring Whoopi Goldberg, Ben Kingsley and Martin Short.

■ "Alice" (2009), a reimagining of "Through the Looking Glass" for the SyFy Channel, starring Caterina Scorsone, 28.

Smithsonian turns down suit worn by OJ Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—What O.J. Simpson wore when he was acquitted in 1995 of murdering his ex-wife and her friend was the suit seen around the world during one of the most watched televised moments in history.

But the Smithsonian Institution, America's repository of historical artifacts, rejected it Tuesday as inappropriate for their collection.

Announcement of the museum's snub came the morning after a California judge approved the donation as the solution to a 13-year court battle over the carefully tailored tan suit, white shirt and yellow and tan tie. The ensemble has been held by Simpson's former sports agent, Mike Gilbert.

Fred Goldman, the father of the man Simpson was accused of killing in 1994, had been fighting Gilbert for the suit, which Simpson has said was stolen from him.

The suit was indirectly responsible for Simpson's current predicament: The former NFL star is imprisoned in Nevada for a bungled effort to reclaim items of his memorabilia from a Las Vegas hotel room.

Simpson had been told the suit was in the room and was being offered for sale, along with other artifacts of his life. It turned out the suit wasn't there.

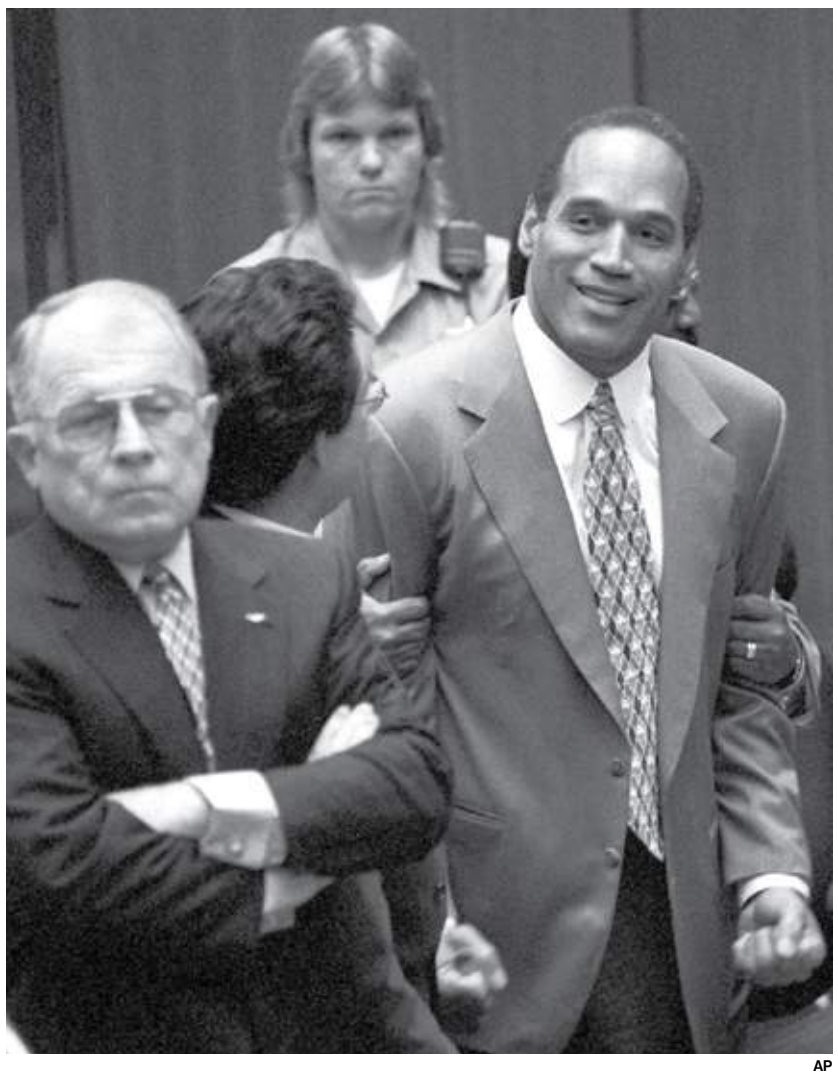
The Smithsonian announced its decision with a terse announcement on its Web site.

"The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will not be collecting O.J. Simpson's suit," it said. "The decision was made by the museum's curators together with the director."

Gilbert, who has the suit in storage, said he was disappointed with the decision.

"Whether we like it or not, it's part of American history," he said. "I'm disappointed that they didn't wait to hear from me and consider my vision of how it should be displayed."

Attorney Ronald P. Slates, who represents Simpson, said he's keeping his client informed about the donation effort. Superior Court Judge Joseph S. Biderman consulted Simpson by phone Monday, then approved Gilbert's plan after Simpson said he would agree as long as no one made any money.



AP

In this Oct. 3, 1995 file photo, O.J. Simpson smiles in a Los Angeles courtroom after being aquitted of the murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

"I'm saddened by the fact that the foremost museum in America has refused this very important item in the history of American jurisprudence," Slates said. "Regardless of one's feelings about Mr. Simpson, his acquittal by a jury of his peers on Oct. 3, 1995 was of great significance and is widely talked about to this day."

Even then-President Bill Clinton watched on television when the jury announced the acquittal in the killing of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman after a yearlong trial.

The museum's spokeswoman, Linda St. Thomas, said curators consider several criteria for accepting donations, including whether an item has historical significance, whether it is needed to complete a collection or is needed for research.

"In this case, they knew it was not appropriate for the collection," she said.

Attorney David Cook, who represents Fred Goldman, said he was sure other institutions would want the suit.

"We're going to hang this suit in America's closet and there will be no lack of people who want it," Cook said. "It's a matter of finding the right fit."

He said he already has some ideas including two Washington, D.C., museums: the Newseum, which has a collection on historical news events, and the Museum of Crime and Punishment.

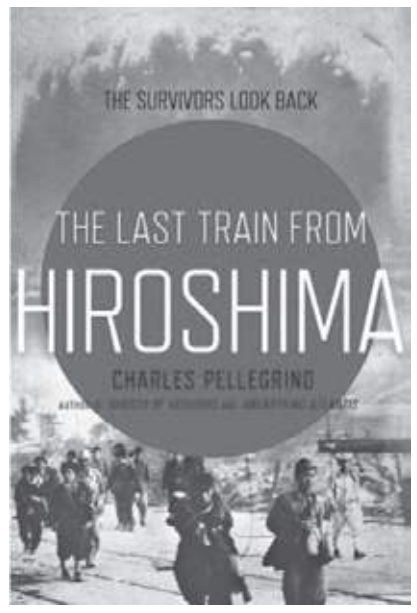
Slates said he may suggest that it go to the University of Southern California, where Simpson made his mark as a star football player.

Gilbert, who was placed in charge of facilitating the donation, said he would consider all suggestions. He was given 30 days to report back to the judge, and could receive another 30 days if an agreement hasn't been reached by then. He said the suit has a blood mark on the collar from when Simpson cut himself shaving, and some lipstick from when his sister hugged him.

Debunked atom bomb book selling on Amazon

NEW YORK (AP)—The halted publication of a book about the atomic bombing of Japan in 1945 has not prevented James Cameron from supporting its author or considering a film project based on the work about the days following the blasts and those who survived. Publisher Henry Holt and Company is no longer printing or shipping Charles Pellegrino's "Last Train from Hiroshima" because of doubts over facts in the book. While the book continues to sell well on Amazon, Barnes and Noble Inc. said Tuesday that it was pulling all its copies.

"All I know is that Charlie would not fabricate, so there must be a reason for the misunderstanding," Cameron said in an e-mail sent Tuesday to The Associated Press. Film rights for the book, released in January, were acquired by the "Avatar" director. Pellegrino served as an adviser for "Avatar," the box-office champ that has been nominated for nine Academy Awards.



Cameron said he has long sought to do a movie on the 1945 bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, "and still intend to do so, although I currently do not have a shooting script and no decision has been made to proceed in the short term."

The filmmaker continues to support the author, with whom he has had a long relationship. Cameron wrote introductions for Pellegrino's "Ghosts of the Titanic," published in 2000, and for the controversial 2007 release "The Jesus Family Tomb," coauthored by Pellegrino and strongly questioned by scholars for its assertion that a tomb discovered in Jerusalem contained the remains of Jesus and possible family members.

When released, "The Last Train from Hiroshima" received high praise from The New York Times' Dwight Garner, who called it a "sober and authoritative new book" and a "gleaming, popular wartime history." Pellegrino first acknowledged flaws in the book when he told the Times last month that he had been misled by Joseph Fuoco, who had claimed he was a last-minute replacement on the Enola Gay for flight engineer James R. Corliss.

Pellegrino apologized and promised to correct the text.

"Charlie's faulty source clearly used elaborate deception to create a false account," Cameron said. "On our numerous projects together, I have known Charlie to be a diligent and thorough researcher, who always does his best to cross-reference testimony."

But the AP raised additional questions, including one about the existence of a Father Mattias (the first name is not given), who supposedly lived in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing and committed suicide, and John MacQuitty, identified as a Jesuit scholar who presided over Mattias' funeral. Holt said Monday that Pellegrino did not offer a satisfactory answer.

Pellegrino, in an e-mail sent to the AP on Monday night, said he had used pseudonyms to protect the identity of the men.

Holt publicist Nicole Dewey declined to comment on whether "Last Train" had been fact-checked. Publishers traditionally review manuscripts for possible legal problems, but have resisted calls to fact-check nonfiction works, saying the process is too expensive and time-consuming.

The author also responded to questions about his education. Pellegrino's Web site, http://www.charlespellegrino.com , lists him as having a Ph.D. from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. The school said it has no such record. Pellegrino said that his degree was revoked over a dispute on evolutionary theory.

Pellegrino's Web site also says he was a "founding member" of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, an organization started soon after the 1986 shuttle tragedy. Center spokesman Rob Cork said Tuesday that Pellegrino has never served on the board of directors and that there is no record of his giving money.

"Now, we have been in existence for nearly 24 years, and we do have nearly 50 Challenger Learning Center locations around the world, and he may have made a donation at some point," Cork said.

Pellegrino, 56, has also written science fiction and magazine articles. A piece he wrote for Omni magazine in 1985 is widely credited as an early examination of whether the DNA of flies preserved from prehistoric times might include information about dinosaurs, a theory amplified in Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park."

Rough economy? Just ask unemployed Spider-Man

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Time to dust off that resume, Spider-Man. You're fired!

Don't fret, the web-slinger will still be keeping New York City safe from Venom and Carnage and any number of other dastardly villains he's tangled with over the years. But beginning Wednesday, he's going to have to do it between trips to the unemployment line.

That's the day Peter Parker, Spider-Man's nice guy alter-ego, hears the words, "You're fired" from his cranky, long-suffering boss, Mayor J. Jonah Jameson. Worse still, Jameson not only sacks Parker, who makes his living as a photojournalist, he blacklists him with every news organization in town.

This of course raises all kinds of interesting questions:

■ How will Parker maintain his Spider-Man costumes? Dry-cleaning bills alone must run to several hundred dollars a year.

■ How will he keep buying the stuff he uses to spin those industrial-strength webs needed to hop from building to building? Surely he doesn't pick that up at the 99 Cents Store.

AP

In this image released by Marvel Comics, an inside image is shown from Issue No. 623 of the Spider-Man comic where alter-ego Peter Parker is fired.

■ Where is his next meal coming from? Would he be reduced to spinning webs outside supermarkets and trapping shopping carts in them?

"Because we still want to sell comic books, I can't answer those questions," laughs Joe Quesada, editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, which reveals the web spinner's latest crisis in Issue No. 623.

But while hard times may lie ahead, Spider-Man has gotten through hard times before. Just two years ago his marriage to beautiful Mary Jane came to an end when the villain Mephisto erased everyone's memory of it.

He landed on the unemployment line this time not because of the recession or even a downsizing news industry. You probably guessed it already, it was because of an evil villain.

Spider-Man got wind of a plot to frame Jameson and exposed it by digitally manipulating photos he'd taken as Peter Parker. Of course to do that he had to violate journalism ethics by misrepresenting the images. Jameson, longtime publisher of the Daily Bugle, could never tolerate that.

And just why would Peter Parker/aka Spider-Man do such a thing anyway?

"Just because he has super powers doesn't mean he's perfect," says Quesada.

'Hurt Locker' producer barred from Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A producer of the war story "The Hurt Locker" will not be allowed to attend Sunday's Academy Awards because of e-mails he sent urging academy members to vote for his movie, Oscar overseers said Tuesday.

But Nicolas Chartier will receive an Oscar at a later date if "The Hurt Locker" wins best picture.

The executive committee of the producers branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences imposed the penalty on Chartier, who violated Oscar rules that prohibit mailings promoting a film and disparaging another.

Chartier sent an e-mail Feb. 19 to some academy members asking for their support for "The Hurt Locker," "not a "$500 million film"—an obvious reference to blockbuster best-picture contender "Avatar."

Subsequent e-mails, posted by the Los Angeles Times, showed Chartier asking Oscar voters to rank "The Hurt Locker" at No. 1 and "Avatar" at No. 10 among this year's expanded best-picture lineup of 10 films.

Chartier apologized in a subsequent e-mail. "My naivete, ignorance of the rules and plain stupidity as a first-time nominee is not an excuse for this behavior and I strongly regret it," Chartier wrote.

He did not immediately return a call Tuesday from The Associated Press seeking comment on the academy's penalty. Officials at Summit Entertainment, which released "The Hurt Locker," declined to comment.

"Avatar" producer Jon Landau did not immediately return a call for comment.

"The Hurt Locker" and "Avatar" have been at the head of the pack throughout awards season, and they lead the Oscar field with nine nominations each.

"Avatar" won the Golden Globe for best drama, but "The Hurt Locker" has dominated honors from critics and key Hollywood trade groups, including guilds representing directors, writers and producers.

At last month's British Academy Film Awards, "The Hurt Locker" also won out over "Avatar," taking six prizes, including best picture. Chartier is one of four producers listed on the film's best-picture nomination, along with "Hurt Locker" director Kathryn Bigelow, screenwriter Mark Boal and Greg Shapiro. Bigelow and "Avatar" director James Cameron were married from 1989 to 1991.

The penalty against Chartier does not affect the other three producers, who are free to attend the Oscars.

The academy announced its sanction against Chartier as Oscar balloting closed Tuesday. The producers branch stopped short of the harsher penalty of rescinding Chartier's nomination, which would have kept him from receiving an Oscar statuette if his film won.

Oscar rivalry is fierce, with filmmakers and distributors coveting awards wins both for bragging rights and for the bounce in box-office or DVD revenues an Oscar triumph brings.

The academy keeps a tight rein on awards campaigning, its rules prohibiting "casting a negative or derogatory light on a competing film."

"You would hope it wouldn't have happened," said Tom Sherak, academy president. "It will not cloud what the night is. This was an individual thing that happened. It's been dealt with, and now we're going on to the show."

How well do you know the Oscars?

By MARK CARO
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Like "The Hurt Locker," there are many land mines in this year's Oscars Quiz. Unlike the lead dude in "Avatar," you won't wind up blue. Proceed at your own peril.

1. Best picture contender "Avatar" has nine nominations but none for screenwriting. What was the last best picture winner to lack a screenwriting nomination?

A. "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"
B. "Gladiator"
C. "Titanic"
D. "The Sound of Music"

2. "The Lovely Bones" supporting actor nominee Stanley Tucci isn't the only acting nominee this year with a "Bone" connection. Who of the following did not star in a movie with "Bone" in the title?

A. Jeff Bridges
B. Vera Farmiga
C. Morgan Freeman
D. Woody Harrelson

3. This year's Oscar telecast has two hosts: Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. Who were the last co-hosts of an Oscar show?

A. Alan Alda, Jane Fonda and Robin Williams
B. Chevy Chase, Goldie Hawn and Paul Hogan
C. Billy Crystal and Jack Palance
D. Liza Minnelli, Dudley Moore, Richard Pryor and Walter Matthau

4. Which of this year's acting nominees played a character named Precious in a 2005 movie?

A. Penelope Cruz
B. Vera Farmiga
C. Mo'Nique
D. Gabourey Sidibe

5. Maggie Gyllenhaal's supporting actress nod for "Crazy Heart" follows her brother Jake's supporting actor nod for "Brokeback Mountain." Who are the only brother and sister to win acting Oscars?

A. Lionel and Ethel Barrymore
B. Warren Beatty and Shirley MacLaine
C. Jane and Peter Fonda
D. Eric and Julia Roberts

6. Gabourey Sidibe is the second African-American to receive a best actress nomination for her debut performance. Who was the first?

A. Angela Bassett
B. Dorothy Dandridge
C. Whoopi Goldberg
D. Diana Ross

7. Before the current race, 1943 was the last year in which 10 films occupied the best picture category. Which of the following is not true about the 1943 Oscars?

A. There were 10 song nominees.
B. There were 12 sound recording nominees.
C. It was the first year that statuettes instead of plaques were given to supporting acting winners.
D. Best picture winner "Casablanca" had eight nominations, including acting nods for Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

8. Who of the following acting nominees has not also won an Emmy?

A. George Clooney
B. Woody Harrelson
C. Helen Mirren
D. Stanley Tucci

9. Sandra Bullock is an Oscar nominee for "The Blind Side" and a Razzie nominee for "All About Steve." Who of this year's nominees is a former Razzie winner?

A. Sandra Bullock
B. George Clooney
C. Woody Harrelson
D. Meryl Streep

10. Matt Damon, who won a screenwriting Oscar for "Good Will Hunting" (1997), is a supporting actor nominee for "Invictus." Who is the only person to win acting and writing Oscars?

A. Woody Allen
B. Laurence Olivier
C. Emma Thompson
D. Orson Welles

ANSWERS 1. c. "Titanic" (1997) won 11 Oscars despite no writing nod. Before that you had to go back to "The Sound of Music" (1965) to find a best picture winner without a writing nomination. 2. c. Bridges starred in "Cutter and Bone" (1981, later retitled "Cutter's Way"), Farmiga starred in "Down to the Bone" (2004) and Harrelson starred in "Play It to the Bone" (1999). 3. b. Chase, Hawn and Hogan co-hosted the 1987 telecast. Alda, Fonda and Williams were co-hosts in 1986, and Minnelli et al. were in 1983. Crystal and Palance never co-hosted. 4. c. Mo'Nique played Precious in "Shadowboxer," "Precious" director Lee Daniels' previous film. 5. a. Lionel Barrymore won best actor for "A Free Soul" (1930 / 31), and Ethel won best supporting actress for "None But the Lonely Heart" (1944). 6. d. Ross made her award-winning debut in "Lady Sings the Blues" (1972). 7. d. Bergman was nominated for "For Whom the Bell Tolls," not "Casablanca." 8. a. Clooney was nominated twice for "E.R." and never won. Harrelson won a supporting award for "Cheers" (1989), Tucci won for "Winchell" (1999) and a guest spot on "Monk" (2007), and Mirren has won four, most recently as lead actress for "Prime Suspect: The Final Act" (2006). 9. c. Harrelson was named worst supporting actor for "Indecent Proposal" (1993), though Bullock has two prior nominations: worst actress for Speed 2: Cruise Control" (1997) and worst supporting actress for "Demolition Man" (1993). Sources: Oscars.org ; The Internet Movie Database ; "80 Years of the Oscar: The Official History of the Academy Awards," Robert Osborne (Abbeville , 2008), Box Office Mojo

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Cop Out
Friday 4:15 7:25 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Bruce Willis and Tracy Morgan team up for the Warner Bros. police buddy movie Cop Out with this Kevin Smith-directed production. From a script by Robb and Mark Cullen, the picture focuses on a detective duo who investigate the disappearance of a baseball card.

Shutter Island
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio team up as a pair of U.S. Marshals who travel to a secluded island off the coast of Massachusetts to search for an escaped mental patient, uncovering a web of deception along the way as they battle the forces of nature and a prison riot in this Martin Scorsese-helmed period picture. Laeta Kalogridis adapts Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, with Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures splitting production and distribution duties.

The Lightning Thief
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Trouble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that's the least of his challenges. It's the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Valentine's Day
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Tooth Fairy
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar
Friday 3:55 6:55 10:00
Saturday 12:50 3:55 6:55 10:00
Sunday 12:50 3:55 6:55
Mon thru Thurs 3:55 6:55
Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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'Idol' illness prompts performance switcheroo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It won't be ladies night on "American Idol." The 10 male semifinalists will perform Tuesday on the Fox singing competition instead of the 10 female semifinalists because 24-year-old dreadlocked singer Crystal Bowersox from Toledo, Ohio, has "medical issues which would prevent" her from performing, the network said Tuesday.

Fox spokeswoman Jill Hudson would not provide additional details because the network has a policy against commenting on contestants' personal lives.

Another person close to the show said Tuesday that Bowersox had been hospitalized for a serious health problem but was expected to perform for viewer votes Wednesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

In this publicity image released by Fox, "American Idol" season nine contestant, Crystal Bowersox, of Elliston, Ohio, is shown in Los Angeles. AP

Bowersox, a single mother who also plays the guitar and harmonica, pleased the judging panel last week with her performance of Alanis Morissette's "Hand in My Pocket." Kara DioGuardi told Bowersox she had an ability to take viewers on a journey when she's singing.

During "Hollywood Week," Simon Cowell praised the singer-songwriter for being "infectious."

Nielsen: Viewers welcomed Jay Leno back to 'Tonight'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Leno got a warm welcome from viewers with his return to late night on Monday.

"The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" led the 11:35 p.m. Eastern time slot with 6.6 million viewers, beating ABC rival "Nightline," which had 4.1 million viewers, and CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman," which had 3.8 million viewers, according to the Nielsen Co.

Then many of Leno's viewers stuck with NBC, giving "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" a 2.1 million win against its 12:35 a.m. competitor on CBS, "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," which had 1.8 million viewers.

After 17 years, Leno left "Tonight" last May in the hands of former "Late Night" host Conan O'Brien.

O'Brien's early ratings on "Tonight" were strong. But he couldn't hang onto the audience that Leno had typically attracted, leading to his exit in January. In the meantime, Leno starred in a weeknight NBC prime-time hour that was canceled for low ratings, with his reinstatement as "Tonight Show" host swiftly following.

Spokesman: Campbell cooperative in NY beating case

NEW YORK (AP)—A spokesman for Naomi Campbell says the model will cooperate with police after her driver accused her of slapping and punching him while he was driving her around New York City.

Spokesman Jeff Raymond says there shouldn't be a rush to judgment in Campbell's case.

Police say they're considering whether to charge Campbell after her driver told them she became enraged and started to hit him from the back seat Tuesday afternoon.

In this Feb. 18, 2010 file photo, model Naomi Campbell takes part in Naomi Campbell's Fashion for Relief-Haiti show in London. AP

Police spokesman Paul Browne says the driver stopped the car in midtown Manhattan and spoke to a traffic agent, who alerted police. He says Campbell jumped out of the car and ran away.

The driver is speaking to police at a precinct. Messages left with Campbell spokesman Jeff Raymond haven't been returned.

Lil Wayne sentencing postponed due to court fire

NEW YORK (AP)—Lil Wayne was ready Tuesday to go to jail, but his court date went up in smoke.

While the rap star was heading to his sentencing after pleading guilty in a 2007 gun case, a fire shut down the courthouse and postponed the already-delayed proceeding.

Having braced to start up to a year behind bars, he was unhappy about the postponement, said his lawyer, Stacey Richman.

"Once you make up your mind to do something, you want to do it," she said.

The sentencing may be rescheduled for Wednesday, though court officials were still scrambling to determine Tuesday afternoon when Manhattan's main criminal courthouse could reopen after the smoky basement blaze. It left eight people with minor injuries and forced about 1,000 to flee the building.

The Grammy Award-winning rapper is expected to get a year-long jail term after pleading guilty in October to attempted criminal possession of a weapon. He admitted having a loaded gun on his tour bus when it was stopped after a Manhattan show in July 2007.

If he's back in court Wednesday, he could cross paths with fellow platinum-selling rapper Ja Rule, arrested separately on a gun-possession charge after playing the same concert. Ja Rule, known to the court as Jeff Atkins, happens to have a court date Wednesday; he has pleaded not guilty.

Lil Wayne, 27, was initially due to be sentenced and start his term last month, but the date was pushed back so he could have surgery on his gemstone-encrusted teeth.

He had bid a drawn-out adieu to friends and fellow artists, including a Rolling Stone cover story last month and a video blitz this past weekend.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Sarah Palin's new gig: late-night comedian

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Sarah Palin says she's going to play Tina Fey in an upcoming Las Vegas show. Just kidding. The former Republican vice presidential nominee turned into a standup comic on Jay Leno's "Tonight Show" stage Tuesday, dropping one-liners about the White House, Congress and Fey - the "Saturday Night Live" star known for her impression of the former Alaska governor. Palin says the White House health care plan reminds her of acrobatic flips done on a snowboard. And she jokes that it's so cold in Alaska it's "5 degrees below Congress' approval rating." And she poked fun at herself too. Palin told Leno's audience she planned to speak at a gun-rights convention and warned them, "Be there or else." Palin's remarks were taped for broadcast later Tuesday.

Woman claiming to be Diddy's wife arrested in NY

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—A woman claiming to be the wife of Sean "Diddy" Combs has been arrested after making two visits to a Long Island house she erroneously believed was the home of the hip-hop superstar. Cemelia Green has pleaded not guilty to criminal mischief and trespassing and has been freed on $5,000 bail. She is represented by Legal Aid. The organization does not comment on pending cases. Police say the Jacksonville, Fla., woman appeared at a home in East Hampton on Feb. 12, claiming to be Combs' wife. A maintenance worker called police, but she fled. On Feb. 22, she asked directions to Combs' home at the East Hampton police station, but was refused. Shortly after, police arrested Green at the house where she was seen Feb. 12. Combs is not married. His spokeswoman did not immediately comment.

Wife of 'Philly Sound' arson suspect apologizes

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The wife of a man accused of setting a fire that badly damaged the home of a famous Philadelphia recording company says he is sorry. Deanna Cimini tearfully said Tuesday that her husband, Christopher, had too much to drink and cannot remember anything about the Feb. 21 fire that damaged the headquarters of Philadelphia International Records. She says he would never hurt anyone. Defense attorney Gina Capuano says her client probably didn't even know of the existence of the studio where the 1960s and '70s soul music called the "Sound of Philadelphia" was born. But producer Kenny Gamble says he doesn't buy the explanation. He says he doesn't believe anyone "can be that drunk." A preliminary hearing in the case was postponed until March 23.

HBO picks up 'Game of Thrones' fantasy series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—HBO is going ahead with the series "Game of Thrones," based on a series of fantasy books by George R.R. Martin. The cable channel said Tuesday it has committed to a total of 10 episodes, with production set to begin in Belfast in June. The cast includes Sean Bean, Peter Dinklage and Jennifer Ehle. "Games of Thrones" will depict a struggle for power set in a "vast and violent fantasy kingdom," HBO said. An air date was not immediately announced.

Opening doors for women can open a can of worms

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with "Stumped for an Answer" (Dec. 22), the man who was speechless when a woman objected to his opening the door for her. Haven't we all experienced "moments after," wishing we'd found the right words at the right time?

My son—a high school sophomore—had a timely response in a similar circumstance. We had stopped at a grocery store for a couple of items and were walking toward the exit. Just ahead was a woman carrying three large bags. My son stepped up to open the door for her, and in a strident voice she said, "Listen, Sonny, I can handle the door myself!"

My boy answered with a polite smile and a pleasant tone of voice: "I'm sorry. I'll excuse your rudeness if you'll forgive my courtesy."

PROUD MOM IN RUIDOSO, N.M.

DEAR PROUD MOM: At times these days it can seem that manners are an endangered species. My office was flooded with mail from readers eager to "politely" share their thoughts. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am tired of people not using good manners or even recognizing what good manners are. Personally, it makes my day when someone holds the door for me. I usually offer thanks and a smile. (By the way, "please" and "thank you" also seem sadly lacking these days.)

I feel sorry for that unappreciative woman because she must lead a bitter life. Please let the guy know there are others out there who appreciate good manners and please don't let one rotten apple spoil the barrel.

TIRED OF THE MANNERLESS

DEAR ABBY: Here's what he should have said: "I was taught that it is respectful to open a door for a lady. I apologize for having misjudged you."

ANOTHER LADY IN SEDONA, ARIZ.

DEAR ABBY: My guess is the woman was having a bad day and the man was a convenient target. I also prefer that doors not be held open for me. I have fibromyalgia, which is usually only apparent if I have my cane. I usually open doors by leaning my back into them. That's what works best for me. People's attempts to "help" me have caused me to fall or the door to slam back on me.

I understand most folks are trying to be kind, but because some of them are clueless, my suggestion is to first ASK someone if you can hold the door for her or him. If the answer is no, please respect it.

NOT UNGRATEFUL IN COLORADO

DEAR ABBY: I am an independent woman and I don't like men to open doors for me. It makes me feel inferior. When I run across a guy who insists on doing it, I allow him to. But then I rush to open the next one for him. Usually I get a chuckle when he reluctantly goes through.

DO-IT-MYSELF, FOSTORIA, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: My reply would have been, "Common courtesy knows no gender."

RON IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR ABBY: To a woman who once yelled at him for opening a door for her, my husband responded: "It's not because you're a woman. It's because of your AGE." It left her speechless.

GRETCHEN IN FAIRBANKS

DEAR ABBY: Another possible reason a woman might not want to have a door opened for her: As a short-statured person, I find it an invasion of my space when a tall man reaches up and over me to hold a door, so I must scoot under his arm.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR ABBY: When it happened to me, I smiled at the woman and said: "I didn't open the door for you because you're a lady. I opened it for you because I'm a gentleman." It got my point across.

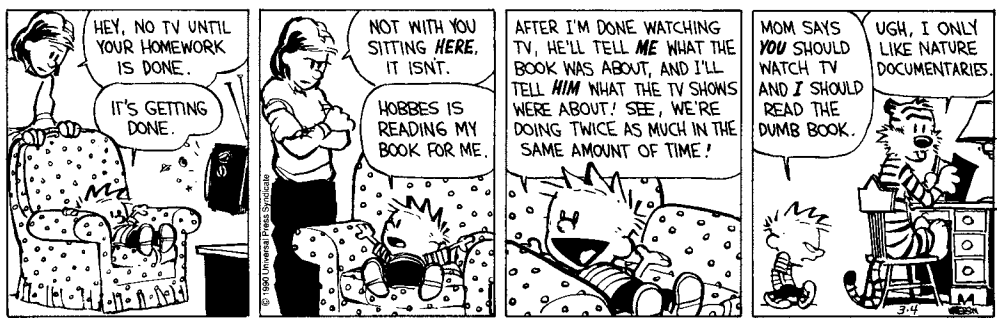
DON IN ALAMEDA, CALIF.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, NO TV UNTIL YOUR HOMEWORK IS DONE.
IT'S GETTING DONE.
NOT WITH YOU SITTING HERE, IT ISN'T.
HOBBES IS READING MY BOOK FOR ME.
AFTER I'M DONE WATCHING TV, HE'LL TELL ME WHAT THE BOOK WAS ABOUT, AND I'LL TELL HIM WHAT THE TV SHOWS WERE ABOUT! SEE, WE'RE DOING TWICE AS MUCH IN THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME!
MOM SAYS YOU SHOULD WATCH TV AND I SHOULD READ THE DUMB BOOK.
UGH, I ONLY LIKE NATURE DOCUMENTARIES.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT?
TELL ME WHAT I'VE DONE
BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN!
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www.garfield.com
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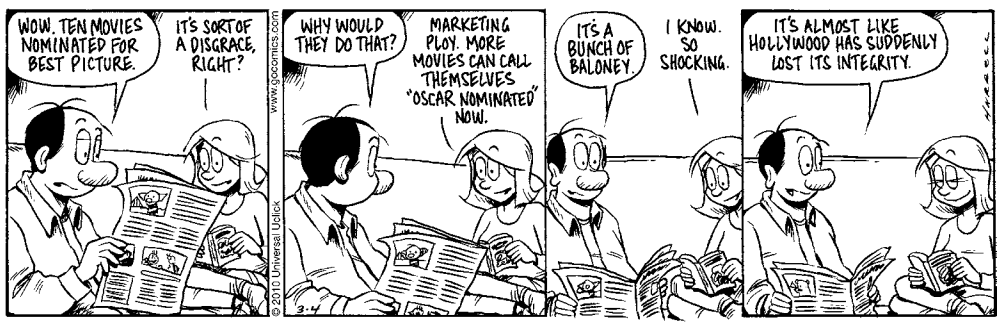
JIM DAVIS 3-4

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WOW. TEN MOVIES NOMINATED FOR BEST PICTURE.
IT'S SORT OF A DISGRACE, RIGHT?
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
MARKETING PLOY. MORE MOVIES CAN CALL THEMSELVES "OSCAR NOMINATED" NOW.
IT'S A BUNCH OF BALONEY.
I KNOW. SO SHOCKING.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HOLLYWOOD HAS SUDDENLY LOST ITS INTEGRITY.
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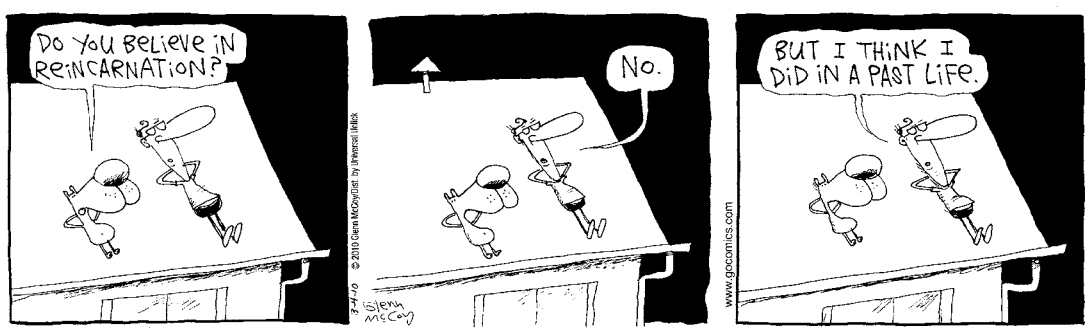
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?
No.
BUT I THINK I DID IN A PAST LIFE.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

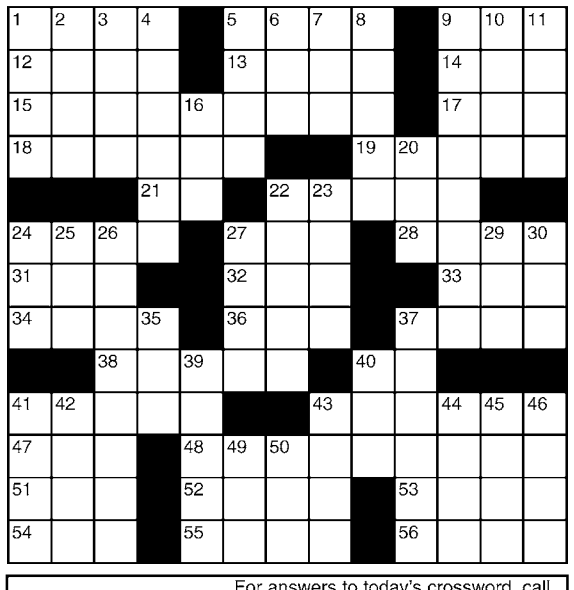
ACROSS
1 False god
5 Unruly groups
9 Anti-quated
12 Pond organism
13 The same as above
14 Airport overseer org.
15 Regulat-ed by traffic lights
17 Ever-green type
18 Render helpless
19 Express gratitude
21 On the other hand
22 Blackjack compon-ent, some-times
24 Liner, e.g.
27 Fellow
28 Tend texts
31 A billion years
32 Moreover
33 Eggs
34 Blue hue
36 Bache-lor's last words
37 Recog-nized
38 Bellini opera
40 Hello
41 Sill
43 She had some bad hair days
47 UN workers' org.
48 Baseball tactic
51 Winter woe
52 Related
53 "— She Lovely"
54 NYC hrs.
55 Part of N.B.
56 Relaxa-tion

DOWN
1 Hit hard
2 Singing voice
3 Enthusi-astic
4 Computer style
5 Go for the gold?
6 Strange
7 Plead
8 Struck
9 Occa-sionally
10 Reclined
11 Unlit
16 Melody
20 "— Haw"
22 Informal interview
23 Destroy
24 Collec-tion
25 Weeding tool
26 Quick, as an errand
27 Cripple
29 "— had it!"
30 Playing marble
35 Journal
37 Tyke
39 12-step program
40 Coop occupant
41 Biogra-phy
42 Right angles
43 Lion's pride
44 — Minor
45 Catches some rays
46 Initial chip
49 Presi-dential nickname
50 Stannum

Solution time: 25 mins.

U	R	A	L	■	C	B	S	■	S	H	U	T
S	O	L	O	■	H	U	E	■	P	A	V	E
S	T	A	N	F	O	R	D	■	A	R	E	A
R	E	S	E	L	L	■	A	O	R	T	A	S
■	■	■	■	R	A	E	■	N	E	R	F	■
A	M	P	■	B	R	A	■	R	O	O	T	S
B	A	I	T	■	A	R	P	■	W	R	I	T
C	O	C	O	A	■	M	A	P	■	D	E	Y
■	■	■	K	U	R	D	■	N	R	A	■	■
U	N	F	R	E	E	■	C	O	W	P	E	A
G	O	O	N	■	C	R	A	W	F	O	R	D
L	O	R	E	■	A	U	K	■	U	R	G	E
I	N	D	Y	■	L	E	E	■	L	E	O	N

Yesterday's answer 3-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Margo Harshman, 24; Chaz Bono, 41; Patricia Heaton, 52; Mykelti Williamson, 53

Happy Birthday: Good fortune is heading your way and there is much you can accomplish legally and financially and with regard to your health and well-being. Your sensitive side will attract some interesting partners. The key will be to not go overboard or be inconsistent. Changes in your personal life will lead to a solid commitment. Your numbers are 8, 13, 19, 25, 32, 43, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An opportunity to partner with someone will arise if you share your ideas with an agency, corporation or institution. Steady work will bring monetary relief and an opportunity to add your own personal touch to the service you provide. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Reforms must be made if you want to move forward. A group you belong to may question you initially but, once you explain your intentions, you will have the freedom to continue at your own pace. Favors will be granted if you go beyond what's expected of you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You have to proceed with caution. Someone may try to lead you astray or ruin your reputation. Stick to your game plan and partner with people who have something to contribute to your cause. Don't let your emotions govern your decisions. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't hesitate to ask questions and to change your mind. You can advance at work or make vocational moves, raising your earning potential or even start creative projects that can lead to financial freedom. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make an effort to please the people you love most by planning something special. Offering your home for group meetings will put you in charge, allowing you to incorporate your own ideas into the plans being made. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You will have a better understanding of the partners you are involved with personally and professionally if you listen to complaints being made. A thoughtful response will help you maintain your position and restore your reputation. Organize an event. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put everything you've got into getting ahead professionally. Making a unique change or taking personal interest or action in something you do will enhance your chances of getting ahead. Loyalty and dedication, not spending, will lead to success. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take another stab at promoting a project you've been working on a long time. The help you get will enable you to finally finish what you started. A small risk will take you beyond your expectations. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen to what's being said but don't expect everything you hear to be accurate. Get the facts straight or you'll pay for someone else's mistake. Situations you face with friends, neighbors and relatives will get blown out of proportion, leaving you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let a burden or responsibilities hold you back. Your past will speak for itself, allowing you to make professional gains. Someone you used to know can help you achieve your goals now. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Stick to what you know and do best and you will avoid opposition. Don't get angry with people who are trying to help you. Wasting time on something you cannot change will set you back. A money matter must be settled. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Good fortune prevails. You can make financial gains, sign contracts or resolve pending settlements. Love is in the stars. The changes you make to your home will entice someone you want to get to know better. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and determined and are not afraid to try something new. You are emotional, caring and passionate about everything you do.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8		6				2		5
					9			
4				5	3			8
					5	1	7	
		4				8		
	3	1	4					
5			2	4				6
			7					
1		8				7		9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	5	3	9	7	4	1	6
4	7	1	6	2	5	9	3	8
6	9	3	4	8	1	2	5	7
5	8	6	9	7	3	1	2	4
9	3	7	2	1	4	8	6	5
2	1	4	8	5	6	7	9	3
1	5	8	7	3	2	6	4	9
3	4	9	1	6	8	5	7	2
7	6	2	5	4	9	3	8	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOST IN THE SAHARA **Solution: 9 letters**

D	S	(T)	P	T	G	O	L	D	F	S	I	D	A	W
B	A	L	(A)	H	N	S	A	E	S	S	N	U	Y	R
E	F	H	A	(E)	A	E	Z	M	E	I	E	N	A	A
R	R	T	C	N	(H)	Z	I	P	W	R	A	E	E	H
B	I	I	I	I	A	A	A	C	G	E	E	S	S	B
E	C	R	D	N	B	C	M	S	N	A	D	A	D	A
R	A	A	L	P	S	A	R	A	G	A	I	G	E	S
S	E	B	M	D	S	E	R	L	D	A	R	E	R	N
L	X	U	N	T	L	R	A	A	Y	A	A	R	E	O
E	P	A	S	E	E	H	D	B	N	R	D	A	F	I
M	L	A	V	T	A	E	I	N	T	N	D	U	I	P
A	O	A	I	G	S	L	E	H	A	S	A	T	U	R
C	R	D	G	E	R	E	N	E	T	S	X	V	Q	O
T	E	A	R	C	H	A	E	O	L	O	G	Y	A	C
M	R	T	A	D	R	A	R	T	A	C	A	C	U	S

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Addax, Africa, Ahaggar, Algae, Ancient, Aquifer, Arabic, Archaeology, Arid, Berbers, Camels, Canals, Chad, Coasts, Desert, Dunes, Earth, Ergs, Explorer, Fezzan, Ghat, Gold, Hamada, Heat, Landscapes, Libya, Mediterranean, Pump, Red Sea, Sabha, Sahel, Sand, Savanna, Scorpions, Seas, Tadrart Acacus, Tenere, Travelers, Tuareg, Ubari, Wadis, Wind

Yesterday's Answer: Skimming

We listened to your requests! TREASURY #6 is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h (S14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WORLD RESORT

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OPEN DATE: March 4, 2010 **CLOSE DATE: March 16, 2010**

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- **2 years experience.**

For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SECURITY

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Find today's solution in this section

Wade, Heat escape to beat Warriors

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade had 35 points and 12 assists as the Miami Heat snapped a four-game slide by digging deep late to beat the undermanned Golden State Warriors 110-106 on Tuesday.

Quentin Richardson scored 15, including two big 3-pointers in the final minutes, for the Heat. Michael Beasley also had 15 points, while Jermaine O'Neal and Carlos Arroyo each added 14 for Miami, which moved a half-game ahead of Charlotte in the race for the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Anthony Morrow scored 24 points, C.J. Watson had 20 and Stephen Curry added 18 for Golden State.

Celtics 105, Pistons 100

At Auburn Hill, Michigan, Nate Robinson scored 14 points in 16 minutes and Rajon Rondo added 15 points and 11 assists as Boston beat Detroit.

The Celtics, playing for the first time since a humiliating home loss to the NBA-worst New Jersey Nets on Saturday, got 18 points from Ray Allen.

Jonas Jerebko scored 16 points for Detroit, which lost its fourth straight.

Lakers 122, Pacers 99

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, hitting 14 of 15 free throws, as Los Angeles pulled away with a dominating third-quarter run.

Andrew Bynum added 16 points and Pau Gasol had 14 points and 16 rebounds for the defending NBA champions, who fell behind early before improving to 14-0 against the Pacers at Staples Center.

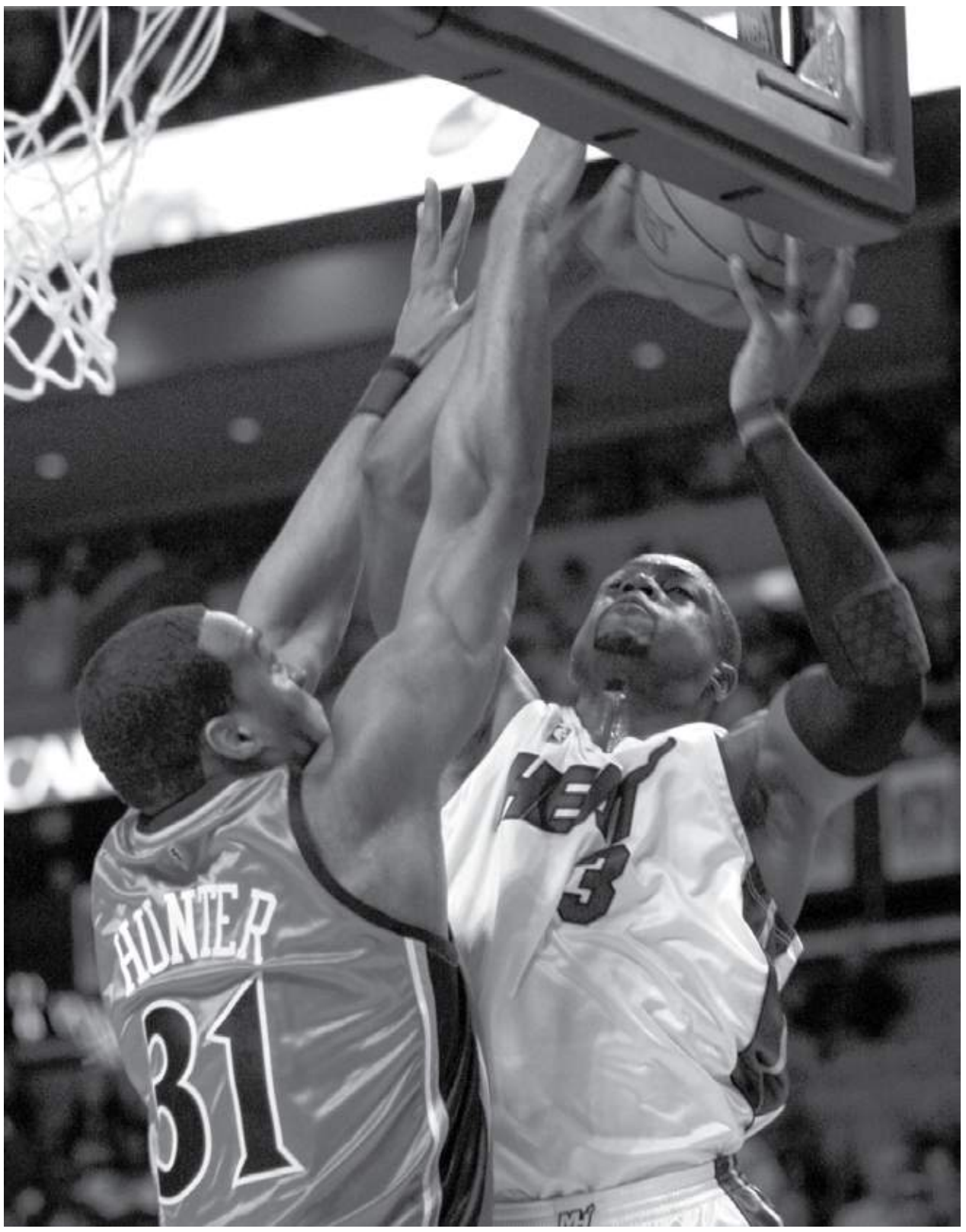
Troy Murphy had 17 points and 13 rebounds, Dahntay Jones scored 16 points, Josh McRoberts had 15 and Earl Watson finished with 10 assists for the Pacers. They dropped to 7-24 on the road and have lost eight of their last 10 overall.

Thunder 113, Kings 107

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 39 points and 10 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook added 30 points and 13 assists as Oklahoma City beat Sacramento to complete a perfect three-game homestand.

Rookie Tyreke Evans led Sacramento with 27 points. Carl Landry added 17 points, and Beno Udrih and Francisco Garcia scored 13 apiece. The Kings played without reserve Andres Nocioni, who was suspended after he pleaded no contest to a drunken driving charge.

Jeff Green had 15 points and Nenad Krstic finished with 14 points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City.



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) goes up for a shot against Golden State Warriors forward Chris Hunter (31) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in Miami.

AP

James files papers to switch from No. 23 to No. 6

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—The number on LeBron James' back will be different next season. The Cleveland Cavaliers can only hope the logo on the front of his jersey remains the same.

James has filed paperwork with the NBA to change his uniform number next season to No. 6 from No. 23, the league confirmed Tuesday. James said earlier this season he would be willing to give up No. 23 in an effort to have the NBA retire it in honor of Michael Jordan.

Paperwork had to be filed this week to request a number change for next season.

"All it does is back up LeBron's beliefs," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "He's a loyalty guy. When he believes in something, he sticks to his guns and he believes wholeheartedly in what he's doing."

James can become a free agent this summer. He would only need the league's approval to change numbers if he remains in Cleveland. Should he sign with another team, James would be allowed to choose any available number without needing approval.

He dismissed a question about his future shortly after the Cavaliers beat the Knicks 124-93 Monday night.

"I stopped answering free agent questions a long time ago," he said.

James, who declined interview requests on Tuesday, is going from one famous number to another. Julius Erving and Bill Russell both wore No. 6.

"The first thing I think of is Dr. J," Brown said.

James wore No. 6 with the U.S. Olympic team and wears it every day in practice. He isn't the first superstar to change numbers mid-career. Among others, Jordan briefly wore No. 45 after coming out of retirement with the Bulls, and Kobe Bryant more recently switched from No. 8 to No. 24.

"We remember the 8 on Kobe, but we also know the 24," Cavaliers point guard Mo Williams said. "After a year or two, people will look past the old number and let it rest with Jordan."

AI will not return to 76ers due to family issues

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers have said goodbye to A.I.

Allen Iverson's second stint with the team he once led to the NBA finals ended with a whimper Tuesday when the Sixers announced he would not return for the rest of the season.

Iverson has mostly been absent from the team for a month, returning to Atlanta to be with his family as they deal with an undisclosed illness of his 4-year-old daughter, Messiah.

Iverson, who returned to the 76ers as a free-agent in December, has not played since Feb. 20.

"After discussing the situation with Allen, we have come to the conclusion that he will not return to the Sixers for the remainder of the season, as he no longer wishes to be a distraction to the organization and teammates that he loves very deeply," team president Ed Stefanski said. "It has been very difficult for Allen and the team to maintain any consistency as he tries to balance his career with his personal life."

The former NBA MVP and four-time scoring champion averaged 13.8 points in 28 games this season. He started the season with Memphis but only played three games before he announced a short-lived retirement.

Coach Eddie Jordan said at practice it was best for Iverson to move on and put his focus on his family.

"I think it was the right thing to do at the right time," Jordan said. "His body of work has proven to be a terrific body of work in the history of the NBA."

Iverson's agent, Leon Rose, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Other attempts to reach Iverson were unsuccessful.

The 34-year-old Iverson made a tearful return to Philadelphia eager to prove he wasn't finished after disastrous stints in Detroit and Memphis. He returned to a sold-out crowd dotted with No. 3 jerseys, but he only showed flashes of his former playmaking self when he ruled the NBA as one of the best guards around. He scored at least 20 points six times—including a 23-point effort in a game against the Lakers that turned into a throwback 1-on-1 duel vs. Kobe Bryant.

"Before it was like, give him the ball, everybody spread out and let him do his thing," Sixers center Samuel Dalembert said. "Now, he's like, you have to run this, you have to get him involved. He was still learning the offense. There were a couple of games where it was a struggle offensively, but other games he got the feel for it. You got the flash of A.I."

Iverson said at a Feb. 15 practice that it was emotionally draining to leave his family to play basketball.

"It was tough to leave her and my wife and kids," Iverson said. "But I do have a commitment and an obligation to be with my team and to do my job. But it is rough. I think this is the only thing I do in life where for a couple hours during the game I don't think about nothing but (basketball)."

Iverson was hobbled by an arthritic left knee and constantly needed it drained. He usually walked gingerly around the locker room after games. His dwindling production didn't bother his fans—Iverson was voted a starter for the East All-Stars, though he did not play.

Dalembert, who played with Iverson in both his Philly stints, said A.I. was not the same player who once terrorized the opposition. But Dalembert also noticed a more reserved, humbled Iverson who just wanted to fit in instead of dominating the ball or making splashy headlines with controversial or selfish actions.

"He was focused, he was being a leader," Dalembert said. "It was a completely different Iverson. The role we needed him to play, he was doing it. He understood what he needed to do for the team and he came in and did it."

The Sixers have been awful with or without Iverson. They are 22-37 after a 126-105 loss to Orlando on Monday night. They were on a nine-game losing streak when Iverson made his debut on Dec. 7.

Andre Iguodala, another Sixer who saw both ends of Iverson's time in Philly, said he'll miss No. 3.

"He did a good job bringing his personality to us," Iguodala said. "On the plane, on the bus, just having a chance to laugh. He brought a huge positive side. Guys enjoyed being around him."

Iverson was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1996 draft and spent 10 seasons in Philadelphia before he was traded to Denver in December 2006. He won the MVP in 2001 when he led the Sixers to the Finals.

Now, the global superstar who popularized "talking about practice," might be talking about retirement.

This time for good.

South Africa marks 100 days to World Cup

AP

An aerial photo of the Royal Bafokeng Stadium in Rustenburg, South Africa, Thursday Oct. 15, 2009. Rustenburg will host first and second round matches of the 2010 World Cup.

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—With 100 days to go before the World Cup, jackhammers shuddered and bulldozers rumbled Tuesday as workers wearing "Proud to be building Soccer City for 2010" buttons readied South Africa's main stadium.

Inside, the grass was smooth and inviting. But not far away stacks of pavement tiles waited to be laid, and parking lots and access roads were still to be tarred.

The site could well be a metaphor for the June 11-July 11 tournament: While most of the big pieces are in place, all the details haven't been worked out.

Over the years, World Cup organizers have been repeatedly and sometimes sharply questioned about whether South Africa, a country with high rates of poverty and crime, was capable of hosting one of the planet's biggest sporting events.

Now talk has gone from whether South Africa is equipped to host the World Cup to what kind of host it will be.

Visitors may have to make do with half-finished hotels at exorbitant rates - not to mention college dorms or even campground tents. There are worries of traffic jams, as fans who can't get hotel rooms in host cities head out after games to accommodation farther afield. South Africa's public transit system is erratic at best.

And will those fans be safe?

Despite the uncertainties, the mood was celebratory and determined Tuesday at 100-days ceremonies across the country. South Africans performed a dance based on soccer moves and sang the national anthem, stressing that hosting the tournament requires enthusiasm and national unity.

"As South Africans we have encountered a lot of skepticism but today, as we celebrate this milestone, we can confidently say to the world that we will be ready," Danny Jordaan, head of the South African organizing committee, said in Durban, where the South African national team was to play Namibia at the new stadium there Wednesday.

Sepp Blatter, president of FIFA, said soccer's global governing body has never questioned South Africa's ability to organize the tournament.

"Everything is on track and ready," said Blatter, who joined Jordaan in Durban, one of nine host cities. "The African continent will host the World Cup. So why don't certain groups in the world want to believe it? It is so easy to just trust and have confidence."

Half of the 10 stadiums where World Cup matches will be played are new, and Soccer City in Johannesburg underwent an overhaul so thorough it might as well be new. Other preparations included major roadwork across the country. Seven airports were renovated and an eighth was built.

Journalists on a tour of Soccer City last week found stadium seats in place, their orange plastic contrasting with the glistening grass. Goals were up and sprinklers were running.

Outside, however, workers were still laying pipe deep under what will eventually be roads. Stacks of bricks lay scattered about and wires dangled from unfinished light fixtures.

The United States will make its sixth consecutive World Cup appearance in South Africa, and Americans have been the most aggressive foreigners when it comes to ticket sales, purchasing more than 84,000 as of November, according to FIFA. Another sign of U.S. interest: ESPN and ABC will have crews on site for all 64 games, a change from 2006 in Germany. ESPN2 will go all-soccer for a 24-hour countdown before the opener and ABC expects a huge rating for the U.S.-England game on June 12.

Still, the worldwide economic downturn—along with those nagging concerns about security, adequate transportation and hotels—is diminishing expectations for a tourism bonanza. FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said last month that South Africa wouldn't get 450,000 visitors as it had predicted and turnout could be as low as 350,000.

"People don't like to come halfway across the world for what they perceive to be an adventure," Jaime Byrom, executive chairman of the FIFA partner in charge of organizing accommodation during World Cups, told reporters recently.

The government has ordered investigations into price-gouging accusations.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Jordaan said transportation was among the "things we have to fine tune."

Under apartheid, little was done to meet the transportation needs of the black majority, and the government has struggled to catch up since democracy was ushered in, back in 1994.

The World Cup lent urgency to plans for government-run rapid bus transit systems to supplement the erratic, often dangerous private minibus services on which commuters in South Africa's cities rely. But construction delays have slowed the new service, which was violently resisted by private operators and met objections from residents of wealthy, mostly white neighborhoods through which proposed bus routes have been drawn.

The Gautrain, a new light-rail service linking Johannesburg, Pretoria and Johannesburg's international airport, will not be fully operational in time for the World Cup.

Chris Hlekane, general manager of Johannesburg's airport, said Tuesday he was worried about passengers crowding airports because they had no way to get to their hotels. He said city officials have been approached about temporarily doubling to about 200 the number of taxi drivers licensed to operate at Johannesburg airport.

The University of Cape Town has stepped in with some solutions. Schools will be closed during the tournament, and the university plans to rent out its dorm rooms and put buses usually used to shuttle students to World Cup use.

"It will be congested, slow and difficult," said Gillian Saunders, a strategist who has tracked South Africa's preparations. "But we will get through it."

Saunders said South Africa has seen a 25 percent increase in hotel rooms over the last three years, but some World Cup visitors will still end up in tents and dorms because building enough permanent hotel rooms for one mega-event would not have made good business sense.

Safety is a particular concern in a country known for high rates of violent crime.

South African police have recruited 55,000 new officers and bought $88 million worth of equipment, including six helicopters, 10 mobile command vehicles, body armor and water cannons for the World Cup.

National Commissioner Bheki Cele noted foreigners have been safe at a string of international events in South Africa, ranging from the 1995 Rugby World Cup to a U.N. summit on poverty in 2002.

"This will be the biggest one of all," Cele said.

Source: Woods back from family counseling

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods is closer to competing again. Woods is back home after a week of family counseling in Arizona and is trying to get back into a routine that includes fitness and his first significant practice in 15 weeks, a person with knowledge of his schedule said Tuesday.

Woods returned to his home near Orlando on Saturday and has been hitting balls on the range at Isleworth, not far from where he ran his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree in a middle-of-the-night accident on Nov. 27 that set off shocking revelations of infidelity.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is authorized to release such information, said golf's No. 1 player still has not decided when he will return to competition.

Woods was photographed hitting balls at Isleworth on Feb. 18, the day before he ended nearly three months of silence by speaking to a small group of associates at the TPC Sawgrass in a 13 1/2-minute statement that was televised around the world. Those photos of Woods were arranged to counter the paparazzi trying to follow his every move since Thanksgiving.

Woods has not practiced in earnest since winning the Australian Masters in Melbourne on Nov. 15 for his 82nd victory worldwide.

"I do plan to return to golf one day, I just don't know when that day will be," Woods said in his statement at Sawgrass. "I don't rule out that it will be this year."

Woods said he had attended inpatient therapy "for the issues I'm facing" for 45 days, from the end of December to early February. He said he was leaving the next day for more therapy, without saying what kind. The person who spoke to The Associated Press said he went to Arizona for a week of family and marriage counseling with his wife, Elin.

Woods said at Sawgrass of his infidelity, "As Elin pointed out to me, my real apology to her will not come in the form of words; it will come from my behavior over time. We have a lot to discuss; however, what we say to each other will remain between the two of us."

News of him getting back into a routine is sure to begin speculation when he might return to the PGA Tour. Woods announced on Dec. 4 that he was taking an "indefinite break" to try to salvage his marriage.

To date, he has missed only two tournaments he typically would have played—Torrey Pines and the Match Play Championship—although he had been leaning toward playing Pebble Beach this year because it will host the U.S. Open in June.

Woods is not likely to play next week in the World Golf Championship at Doral, where he has won three times.

His next possibility on the PGA Tour is the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, where he is the defending champion and a six-time winner. The Masters, which Woods has played every year since 1995, would follow. Augusta National officials have not indicated whether they expect Woods to compete.

"When he does come back, I hope it's in the Masters, and I hope he's in great form," Masters champion Angel Cabrera said Tuesday on a conference call.

The fallout from Woods' sex scandal has been immense. He already has had three sponsors drop him—Accenture, AT&T and, most recently, Gatorade—while other companies like Gillette have suspended promotions of Woods while he takes his break from golf.

When he does return, he will have a different logo on his golf bag, replacing AT&T, if he can find a deal.

Mayweather-Mosley already getting physical

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)—Music blared over the loudspeakers, smoke billowed across the stage, and the curtain dropped to reveal Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Shane Mosley dressed to the nines as a crowd of several thousand inside the Nokia Theater let out a roar.

They won't meet in the ring until May 1 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, but the first stop on a whirlwind, three-city publicity tour Tuesday included plenty of pomp and pizazz.

Fireworks, too.

After lengthy introductions that would have made silver-tongued Michael Buffer blush, the unbeaten Mayweather and the welterweight champion Mosley sauntered to the middle of the stage and stood face to face. Jawing turned to pointing, pointing turned to shoving, and before long, promoters from both camps were rushing forward to separate them.

Perhaps the altercation was staged, but it's hard to fake the animosity between them.

"The thing is this: He may be the champ, but we all know belts don't do nothing but collect dust," Mayweather said, smiling. "I'm in the check-cashing business, baby."

Both should be able to cash hefty checks after this fight, arguably the biggest in the sport not involving Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather and Mosley have been circling each other for years, and the possibility they would finally meet really gained traction when Mosley crashed a post-fight interview after Mayweather defeated Juan Manuel Marquez last September.

Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions brazenly predicted the fight will do 3 million pay-per-views, which would shatter the record set by Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya in 2007.

"We have the two best American fighters of our generation," Schaefer said. "Mayweather has become a household name, let's face it. Love him or hate him, he's a household name. And with Shane Mosley, you have the perfect dance partner."

The fight came together after weeks of negotiations between Mayweather and Pacquiao failed to produce an agreement. The Filipino fighter refused Olympic-style drug testing - Mayweather's camp has accused Pacquiao of using performance-enhancing drugs - and he will instead fight Joshua Clottey on March 13 at Cowboys Stadium.

When potentially the richest fight in boxing history fell through, Mayweather (40-0, 25 KOs) turned to the next biggest attraction in the loaded 147-pound division.

Mosley (46-5, 39 KOs) was supposed to face Andre Berto in a unification fight in January, but Berto's family was severely impacted by the earthquake in Haiti, forcing him to back out.

"It's been a long time since I got a chance to show the world that I'm the best fighter, and that's all that I really want, to be the best," Mosley said. "I'm going to take my hat off to Mayweather, because I didn't think I was ever going to get a fight from any of these top fighters."

Micro Games second installment due tonight

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its monthly membership meeting starting at 7pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael White said aside from the usual election of the previous month's top athletes and students athletes, the second installment of deposit ($175) for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau is also due today.

The 2010 Micro Games is scheduled from Aug. 1 to 10, 2010 and aside from the CNMI, other Micronesian island-nations expected to participate in the seventh staging of the quadrennial meet are Guam, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands.

They will compete in 15 disciplines, namely baseball, lawn tennis, swimming, triathlon, athletics, basketball, Micro All-Around, outrigger canoe, spear-fishing, fastpitch softball, table tennis, weightlifting, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, and wrestling.

Like in previous monthly meetings, NMASA will also vote for the best athletes for last month (February) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student).

White also reminded associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Rengiil is third qualifier to St. Paddy's Day 8-ball

Rick Rengiil outlasted Tee Minor on Sunday to grab the fourth spot in the eight-player field vying for USS Peleliu Club's St. Patrick's Day 8-Ball Tournament.

Free qualifying tournaments are held on Thursdays and Sundays with the winner earning a spot in the final tournament. There are four contests remaining.

Larry Briones defeated Arnel Orbita in the first competition, and Leonard Sablan fell to Mei Rengiil the following Sunday. Taylor Watanabe held Orbita to another second-place last Thursday.

Tonight's winner will compete with the other qualifiers for the $100 first prize and other "green" on March 17. Pacific Amusement will also provide trophies. Sign-up starts at 7:30pm tonight. The games are 8-ball, double-elimination, using Billiard Congress of America rules.

For more information, please contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

UNPLAYABLE

From Page 28

cancelled games last Sunday to this Saturday, as they will contact first the coaches of concerned teams. As for the SML games, organizers will try to have a game tomorrow, but it will still depend on the availability of the two teams, which were supposed to play last week (Wednesday).

Meanwhile, SLLB would like to thank all volunteers who helped prepare the fields.

"On behalf of SLLB, I want to thank all the volunteers who came out to assist me prepare the fields. Although the fields are not in perfect condition, we are trying our very best to at least get them halfway decent. This week, we hope to get a backhoe to help us dig up the big field's running paths and to replace it with the right type of dirt. We invite other volunteers to come out and assist, so as to prevent more injuries on our kids. Any help that we can get will be appreciated," Rogolifoi said.

15 CAGERS

From Page 28

two and a half hours.

Asked to grade the pool at this time as far as its preparation for the Micro Games is concerned with 10 as highest and one as lowest, Aguon said they are just on the halfway mark, as it had only been a month since they started training.

"Right now, we are at five, meaning we can play but we are not strong enough nor mentally prepared to play yet," he said.

Aguon added after a month of training, he is happy to see good signs from players in the pool.

"So far the good signs are that they are willing to work hard and improve their strength and fitness level. These guys can play and they understand that to improve they must get stronger and faster," said Aguon, who is on his second third straight tour of duty with the CNMI Men's Nationals.

By the end of this month, Aguon will make the first cut.

"By end of March we will be doing fitness and strength tests and those that meet the standard or exceed it will continue training," added Aguon, who coached the CNMI Men's Nationals in the 2006 Micronesian Games and 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

In the 2006 Micro Games on Saipan, Aguon's wards finished only fifth behind Guam

Guam, Palau, Marshalls, and Kosrae. Members of the team were Palacios, Barcinas, Lee, Fitial, Freddie Pelisamen, Lee, James Villacrusis, Jeremy Sablan, Jeremy Winkfield, John Sablan, Mark Wallace, and Oscar Ada.

This year, only 10 players will be selected to don the colors of the CNMI in the basketball competition in the Micro Games. Palau will host the quadrennial meet from Aug. 1 to 10.

TAN

From Page 28

Lee played in another three-set match against Liza Provido and Margaret Terry. The Guam pair took the first set, 6-4, before the Saipan netters stole the second set, 6-4, to keep latter's finals bid alive. However, Sally Lee and Tan ran out of steam in the deciding third set and lost to their hosts, 4-10.

Joining Tan and the Lees in the third weekend of the Quality Cup was Vickie Izuka. Izuka and her teammate Junko Yaqyu made it to the quarterfinals, but bowed to Arlie and Alie Lai, 2-6, 1-6.

Tan and company were also in Guam during the third week of the four-weekend tournament.

Sally Lee paired with Guam's George Lai and the duo prevailed over Aldan Day and Pacho Madrid in the mixed 45 doubles finals, 6-4, 6-4.

Tan teamed up with Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor Peter Loyola and advanced to the semifinals of the mixed open doubles.

Loyola also joined the men's 35 singles and topped the round-robin tournament after beating Khay Sung and Joseph Cruz.

VICTORIES

From Page 28

Emoa Iguel went 3-for-3 at bat for Calikano, scored two runs, and had three RBIs. Navan Falig also recorded three RBIs on a 4-for-5 performance at the plate and tallied four runs, one triple, and one homer.

Natibu 19, Go For Broke 2

There was another lopsided win in the second game with the league-leading Natibu routing Go For Broke, 19-2.

J.R. Suel hit a grand slam for a total of seven RBIs. He was 3-for-4 at bat and scored two runs and two round-trippers. B.J. Sablan was perfect at the plate, hitting 3-for-3 and making two runs.

Go For Broke scored only in the first and third inning and the game was finished after only four innings. Kelvin Sanchez had a solo homer for Go For Broke in the first inning, while Shawn Matsutaro gave the team its second run on Brennan Hocog's double at the bottom of the third inning.

Natibu remained unbeaten in 12 games, while Go For Broke dropped to a 4-8 record.

Advance 25, Red Eye 0

Capping the night of easy victories was Advance X-Terminators, who whipped Red Eye, 25-0.

Center fielder Jay Cabrera and right fielder John Taitano made four RBIs each for Advance, while Dennis Ngeskebei added three RBIs. Taitano also had two homers and three runs. Angel Reyes and Manning Cabrera chipped in two RBIs apiece.

Advance played its best game at the top of the third inning, exploding for 12 runs behind Taitano's three-run homer.

Red Eye was beaten after only three innings, as the best it could do was reached third base at the bottom of the first inning. In the second inning, Red Eye was done after its first batters were retired and in the third inning, the farthest it could go was to first base on Cedric Palacios' single.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	37	21	.638	–
Toronto	31	28	.525	6 1/2
Philadelphia	22	37	.373	15 1/2
New York	20	39	.339	17 1/2
New Jersey	6	53	.102	31 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	41	20	.672	–
Atlanta	38	21	.644	2
Miami	30	31	.492	11
Charlotte	28	30	.483	11 1/2
Washington	21	36	.368	18

Central Division

Cleveland	47	14	.770	–
Chicago	31	29	.517	15 1/2
Milwaukee	30	29	.508	16
Detroit	21	39	.350	25 1/2
Indiana	20	40	.333	26 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	40	21	.656	–
San Antonio	34	24	.586	4 1/2
Houston	30	29	.508	9
New Orleans	31	30	.508	9
Memphis	30	30	.500	9 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	39	21	.650	–
Utah	38	22	.633	1
Oklahoma City	36	23	.610	2 1/2
Portland	36	27	.571	4 1/2
Minnesota	14	47	.230	25 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	15	.754	–
Phoenix	38	24	.613	8 1/2
L.A. Clippers	25	35	.417	20 1/2
Sacramento	20	40	.333	25 1/2
Golden State	17	42	.288	28

Yesterday's Games

Boston 105, Detroit 100
Miami 110, Golden State 106
Oklahoma City 113, Sacramento 107
L.A. Lakers 122, Indiana 99

NBA LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	61	615	483	1824	29.9
Durant, OKC	58	564	505	1721	29.7
Anthony, DEN	47	459	382	1343	28.6
Bryant, LAL	55	559	320	1511	27.5
Wade, MIA	56	514	374	1457	26.0
Ellis, GOL	52	520	244	1335	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	60	543	396	1514	25.2
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Stoudemire, PHX	62	509	329	1348	21.7
Johnson, ATL	59	505	171	1282	21.7
Jackson, CHA	58	442	244	1220	21.0
Randolph, MEM	60	495	242	1240	20.7
Evans, SAC	54	404	266	1100	20.4
Rose, CHI	60	513	189	1221	20.4
Maggette, GOL	50	324	355	1013	20.3
Billups, DEN	51	288	334	1031	20.2
Lee, NYK	59	504	183	1191	20.2
Gay, MEM	58	451	218	1168	20.1
Brooks, HOU	59	414	186	1163	19.7
Boozer, UTA	57	449	221	1119	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	247	402	.614
Howard, ORL	371	617	.601
Hilario, DEN	313	533	.587
Gasol, MEM	336	578	.581
Millsap, UTA	286	501	.571
Bynum, LAL	342	602	.568
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Haywood, DAL	225	398	.565
Boozer, UTA	449	809	.555
Lee, NYK	504	909	.554

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	61	211	592	803	13.2
Randolph, MEM	60	258	452	710	11.8
Camby, POR	57	187	477	664	11.6
Lee, NYK	59	156	522	678	11.5
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Boozer, UTA	57	124	507	631	11.1
Duncan, SAN	55	180	421	601	10.9
Wallace, CHA	56	115	481	596	10.6
Bogut, MIL	53	167	387	554	10.5
Haywood, DAL	58	233	364	597	10.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	61	683	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	54	548	10.1
Rondo, BOS	56	558	10.0
Kidd, DAL	60	555	9.3
James, CLE	61	517	8.5
Davis, LAC	58	459	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	58	456	7.9
Harris, NJN	43	293	6.8
Wade, MIA	56	357	6.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	12	0
Man Amigos	12	1
Island Rebels	9	1
Chura	9	2
Ur Balls	9	2
SaiPal	9	3
San Roque	8	2
Freedom Air Flyers	8	4
Hitz	6	5
6-Pack	5	6
Calikano-Falcons	6	7
X-Terminators	5	7
Blazers	4	7
Go For Broke	4	8
Lancheros	3	8
Red Eye	3	9
G-Ballers	3	9
Ramblers	2	11
Berdax	1	8
Team Familia	1	9
Team Fuegu	1	11

5th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Derek Chambers, left, is greeted by his son on the shore.

From left, Lewie Tenorio, Joshua Berger, and Manny Sitchon take a breather before going for the last lap in the 3-kilometer race.

Suzy Kindel is cheered on by SSC swimmers as she heads to the finish line.

From left, Stan Good and Bryce and Kieran Daly finish the first lap of the three-lap race.

Lennosuke Suzuki makes his way to shore during the 5th Annual Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held Saturday in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Junior Pamaran heads to the shore after completing the 3-kilometer swim.

Grace Kimball runs to the shore.

A relieved Andres Buitrago moves out of the water after the 5-kilometer race.

Taiga Sato brings his fins to the shore after completing the 1-kilometer race.

Kento Akimaru completes the 3-kilometer race.

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Unplayable fields put baseball on hold

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After only two weeks, games in the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball were halted due to the unplayable conditions at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The last time SLLB had its games in the two fields after opening its season on Feb. 14 was on Feb. 27. Last Sunday's games were called off and matches in the 2010 Saipan Major League Baseball were also cancelled.

"The ground (at Tan Ko ballfield) is very hard with a lot of manufactured sand (pebbles/rocks) that was dumped there by previous contractor and it was the wrong type of sand," SLLB secretary Rose Igitol said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Facing an unplayable field less than a week before the league opened its 2010 season, SLLB officials decided to take matters in their own hands, making minor repairs on both fields for three days.

"Repairs and cleaning were done from Feb 10 thru 13 at the Tan Ge ballfield and some repair work was also done at Tan Ko," Igitol added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Little League Baseball volunteers work on cleaning and repairing the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield mid last month in preparation for the season opening of the annual league.

SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi spearheaded the cleaning and repairs and drew help from volunteer parents and officials of the league: Manny Tenorio, Ike Taitano, Ben Jones, Joseph Mettao, Igitol, Piding Tenorio, Janice Tenorio, Ian Rogolifoi, Walter Macaranas, Bernard Cabrera, and Pete Igisomar.

This week, games in SLLB and SML were originally cancelled to give way to a professional team which had its spring training at the facility. However, since the first plan did not push through, SLLB was hoping the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs through the Division of Sports and Recreation will do something to repair the fields.

"This week there will be no games due to a request from the Director of Sports and Recreation, Mr. Joe Lizama. Another Asian team was supposed to come out for training at this time, but since we learned that they cancelled, SLLB through Tony has again requested the director to please work on the Tan Ko field because it is not playable," Igitol said.

However, SLLB's request fell on deaf ears.

"The gym folks cannot do anything with the repairs. They are responsible for the repairs and maintenance of the facilities not the SLLB. Therefore, no repairs and we lost out on this week's games. Tony was just told yesterday (Tuesday) that the field repairs will not happen," Igitol said.

Saipan Tribune called Lizama yesterday, but no one was answering the phone in his office. An e-mail to DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao, inquiring about the possible repairs at SLLB has yet to be answered at press time.

Igitol said they will try to reset the

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Victories coming in handy in 2010 Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Victories for three teams in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slowpitch Softball League came as easy as ABC.

First on the list was Calikano, which topped Fuego, 22-10.

Calikano had the game in the bag after five innings, leading at 12-3, as it held Fuego to no more than one run in each of the three innings and shut out its foe in two innings.

Fuego tried a comeback with a seven-run bottom of the sixth. However, Calikano answered with 10 runs in the last two innings and completed the big win after shutting out Fuego at the bottom of the last inning.

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15 cagers vying for Micro Games slots

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pete Iguel, seen here going up for a shot against two Australian players during their game in last year's FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament, is one of the 15 players vying for slots on the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Of the 25 players invited to try out for slots on the CNMI Men's National Team for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, only 12 are attending regular training session, while three others not on the "by invitation only list" are hoping to eventually make the grade.

CNMI Men's Nationals coach Rufino Aguon said right now the Commonwealth pool has Dan Barcinas, Pete Iquel, Jack Lizama, Keone Chariton, Kelvin Fitial, Jomary Tumaquip, James Lee, Joe Villacrusis, Robert Najara, Melvin Manibusan, Marvin Rabauliman, and Pete Mendiola as members. Joining them are Gus Palacios, Perry Inos, and Jose Tumaquip, who are not on the "invitation list."

The pool's first training session/tryouts started on Jan. 28 at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

"At this time, we are working on strength (both upper body and lower body) and aerobic energy. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, we run. We started with 2.5 miles and now we are at 3.5 miles. Once we reach six miles then we will change to sprints. Every Tuesday and Thursday, we work on strength," Aguon said.

Training session every day last for

See 15 CAGERS on Page 26

Tan, Lee take tennis title in Guam

Lee

Tan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Saipan tandem of Lydia Tan and Vivian Lee competed in the fourth and final week of the 2010 Guam Quality Cup tennis tournament at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa tennis courts over the weekend and brought home the women's open doubles championship.

Tan and Lee ruled the round-robin tournament, beating Kimberly Borders and Maureen Chung first and then Sally Lee and Alea Marie Dugan.

In their first game, Tan and Vivian Lee needed only two sets to down Borders and Chung, 6-0, 6-4. In other results, Sally Lee and Dugan thwarted Borders and Chung in straight sets, too, 6-2, 6-3, to arrange a title tiff against Tan and Vivian Lee.

Sally Lee, who is Vivian's mother, and Dugan drew first blood with a 5-7 victory in the opening set. In the second set, Tan and the younger Lee needed extra minutes to pull off a 7-6 win (7-4) and force a deciding third set. The make-or-break third set was an even harder game with the pair of Vivian Lee and Tan eking out a 10-8 triumph to complete a come-from-behind victory.

In the women's 4.0 doubles, Tan paired with the older Lee and made it to the semifinals.

Tan and Sally Lee debuted with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Saori Seta and Aki Shintani and then defeated Ronni Connely and Gigi Cowan in the quarterfinals in three sets, 6-2, 6-7 (7-5), 11-9.

In the semifinals, Tan and Sally

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